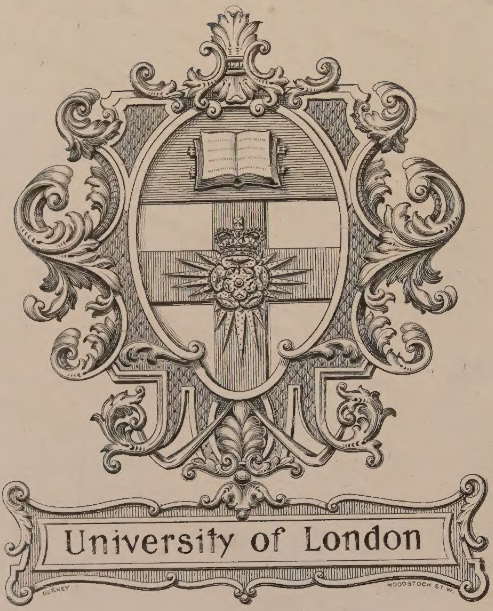
THIS BOOK
MUST NOT BE REMOVED
FROM THE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LIBRARY

REFERENCE ONLY

PARL. PAPERS
FOR REFERENCE ONLY.


University of London
GURNEY
WOODSTOCK ST. W.

616941

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

7 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLXXI.

COMPRISING PERIOD FROM WEDNESDAY, THIRTEENTH DAY OF MARCH, 1907, TO WEDNESDAY, TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF MARCH, 1907.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION

1907.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,
UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

8472

Chronology of "The Parliamentary Debates."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commence with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

HISTORY.

CONQUEST to 34 GEO. II.—1066 to 1760.

Vol. 1 to 15, 1 Will. I. to 34 Geo. II.
1066-1760

REIGN OF GEORGE III.—1760 to 1820.

Vol. 15 to 35, 1 Geo. III. to 40 Geo. III.
1760-1800

(First Parliament.)

Vol. 35	41	Geo. III.	1801
— 36	42	—	1802

(Second Parliament.)

Vol. 36	42	Geo. III.	1802-3

DEBATES.

First Series.

(Second Parliament—*continued.*)

Vol. 1 & 2	44	Geo. III.	1803-4
— 3 to 5	45	—	1805
— 6 & 7	46	—	1806

(Third Parliament.)

Vol. 8 & 9	47	Geo. III.	1806-7

(Fourth Parliament.)

Vol. 9 to 11	48	Geo. III.	1807-8
— 12 — 14	49	—	1809
— 15 — 17	50	—	1810
— 18 — 20	51	—	1810-11
— 21 — 23	52	—	1812

(Fifth Parliament.)

Vol. 24 to 26	53	Geo. III.	1812-13
— 27 & 28	54	—	1813-14
— 29 to 31	55	—	1814-15
— 32 — 34	56	—	1816
— 35 & 36	57	—	1817
— 37 — 38	58	—	1818

(Sixth Parliament.)

Vol. 39 & 40	59	Geo. III.	1819
— 41	60	—	1819-20

Second Series.

REIGN OF GEORGE IV.—1820 to 1830.

(Seventh Parliament.)

Vol. 1 to 3	1	Geo. IV.	1820
— 4 & 5	2	—	1821
— 6 — 7	3	—	1822
— 8 — 9	4	—	1823
— 10 — 11	5	—	1824
— 12 — 13	6	—	1825-6
— 14 — 15	7	—	1826

(Eighth Parliament.)

Vol. 16	7	Geo. IV.	1826
— 17	8	—	1827
— 18 & 19	9	—	1828
— 20 — 21	10	—	1829
— 22 to 25	11	-	1830

Third Series.

REIGN OF WILLIAM IV.—1830 to 1837.

(NINTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 1 to 3... 1 WILL. IV.......1830-1

(TENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 4 to 8... 2 WILL. IV. 1832
— 9 — 14... 3 — 1831

(ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 15 to 20... 4 WILL. IV. 1833
— 21 — 25... 5 — 1834

(TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 26 to 30... 6 WILL. IV. 1835
— 31 — 35... 7 — 1836
— 36 — 38... 8 — 1837

REIGN OF VICTORIA—1837 to 1901.

(THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 39 to 44... 1 VICTORIA 1838
— 45 — 50... 2 — 1839
— 51 — 55... 3 — 1840
— 56 — 58... 4 — (a) 1841

(FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 59 .... 4 VICTORIA (b) 1841
— 60 to 65... 5 — 1842
— 66 — 71... 6 — 1843
— 72 — 76... 7 — 1844
— 77 — 82... 8 — 1845
— 83 — 88... 9 — 1846
— 89 — 94...10 — (a) 1847

(FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 95 ... .10 VICTORIA (b) 1847
— 96 to 101...11 — 1848
— 102 —107...12 — 1849
— 108 —113...13 — 1850
— 114 —118...14 — 1851
— 119 —122...15 — (a) 1852

(SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 123 ....15 VICTORIA (b) 1852
— 124 to 129...16 — 1853
— 130 —135...17 — 1854
— 136 —139...18 — 1855
— 140 —143...19 — 1856
— 144 ... .20 — (a) 1857

(SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 145 to 147...20 VICTORIA (b) 1857
— 148 —151...21 — 1858
— 152 —153...22 — (a) 1859

(EIGHTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 154 to 155...22 VICTORIA (b) 1859
— 156 —160...23 — 1860
— 161 —164...24 — 1861
— 165 —168...25 — 1862
— 169 —172...26 — 1863
— 173 —176...27 — 1864
— 177 —180...28 — 1865

(NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 181 to 184...29 VICTORIA...... 1866
— 185 —189...30 — 1867
— 190 —193...31 — ... 1867-8

(TWENTIETH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 194 to 198...32 VICTORIA ... 1868-9
— 199 —203...33 — 1870
— 204 —208...34 — 1871
— 209 —213...35 — 1872
— 214 —217...36 — 1873

(TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 218 to 221...37 VICTORIA 1874
— 222 —226...38 — 1875
— 227 —231...39 — 1876
— 232 —236...40 — 1877
— 237 —242...41 — 1878
— 243 —249...42 — ... 1878-9
— 250 & 251...43 — (a) 1880

(TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 252 to 256...43 VICTORIA (b) 1880
— 257 —265...44 — 1881
— 266 —273...45 — (a) 1882
— 274 & 275...45 — (b) 1882
— 276 to 283...46 — 1883
— 284 —292...47 — 1884
— 293 —301...48 — ... 1884-5

(TWENTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 302 to 307...49 VICTORIA (a) 1886

(TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 308 & 309...49 VICTORIA (b) 1886
— 310 to 321...50 — 1887
— 322 —332...51 — 1888
— 333 —340...52 — 1889
— 341 —348...53 — 1890
— 349 —356...54 — ... 1890-1

Fourth Series.

(Twenty-Fourth Parliament—*cont.*)

Vol.	1 to 6	55	Victoria	1892

(Twenty-Fifth Parliament.)

Vol.	7	56	Victoria	1892
—	8 to 21	57	—	1893-4
—	22 — 29	57	—	1894
—	30 — 35	58	—	1895

(Twenty-Sixth Parliament.)

Vol.	36	59	Victoria	1895
—	37 to 44	59	—	1895-6
—	45 — 52	60	—	1897
—	53 — 65	61	—	1898
—	66 — 76	62	—	1899
—	77	63	—	1899
—	78 — 83	63	—	1900
—	84	63 & 64	—	1900
—	85 — 87	64	—	1900

(Twenty-Seventh Parliament.)

Vol.	88	64	Victoria	1900

REIGN OF EDWARD VII.

(Twenty-Seventh Parliament—*cont.*)

Vol.	89	1	Edward VII	1901
—	90 to 100	1	—	1901
—	101	1 & 2	—	1902
—	102 to 117	2	—	1902
—	118 to 128	3	—	1903
—	129 to 140	4	—	1904
—	141 to 151	5	—	1905

(Twenty-Eighth Parliament.)

Vol.	152 to 168	6	Edward VII	1906
Vol.	169 to 171	7	„ „	1907

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE, Etc.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION, DECEMBER 1905.

THE CABINET.

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury——Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.
Lord President of the Council——Rt. Hon. the Earl of Crewe.
Lord Chancellor——Rt. Hon. Lord Loreburn.
Chancellor of the Exchequer——Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.
Secretaries of State——
- Home Department——Rt. Hon. Herbert J. Gladstone, M.P.
- Foreign Affairs——Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Bt., M.P.
- Colonial Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.
- War Office——Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P.
- India Office——Rt. Hon. John Morley, M.P.

First Lord of the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Chief Secretary for Ireland——Rt. Hon. A. Birrell, M.P.
Lord Privy Seal——Most. Hon Marquess of Ripon.
President of the Board of Education——Rt. Hon. R. McKenna, M.P.
President of the Board of Trade——Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George, M.P.
President of the Local Government Board——Rt. Hon. John Burns, M.P.
President of the Board of Agriculture——Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.
Postmaster-General——Rt. Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Fowler, M.P.
The Secretary for Scotland——Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair, M.P.
The First Commissioner of Works—Rt. Hon. L. Harcourt, M.P.

NOT IN THE CABINET.

Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office——Lord Fitzmaurice.
Under Secretary of State, Home Office——Herbert Samuel, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office——Winston Churchill, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, India Office——C. E. Hobhouse, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, War Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of Portsmouth.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury——George Whiteley, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education——Thomas Lough, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. E. Robertson, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade——H. E. Kearley, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board——Dr. Macnamara, M.P.
Financial Secretary to the Treasury——Walter Runciman, Esq., M.P.
Financial Secretary to the War Office——T. R. Buchanan, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Treasury——
- J. A. Pease, Esq., M.P.
- Herbert Lewis, Esq., M.P.
- Captain Cecil Norton, M.P.
- J. M. F. Fuller, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Admiralty——
- Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fisher.
- Vice-Admiral Sir C. C. Drury.
- Rear-Admiral Sir H. B. Jackson.
- Rear-Admiral F. S. Inglefield.

Army Council——
- The Secretary of State for War [*in the Cabinet*].
- General Hon. Sir N. G. Lyttelton (Chief of the General Staff).
- General C. W. H. Douglas (Adjutant-General to the Forces).
- General Sir W. G. Nicholson (Quarter-Master-General to the Forces).
- Major-General Sir J. W. Murray (Master-General of the Ordnance).
- The Under Secretary of State for War.
- The Financial Secretary to the War Office.
- *Secretary.* The Permanent Under Secretary of State for War (Colonel Sir E. W. D. Ward).

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty——George Lambert, Esq., M.P.
Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland——Rt. Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen.
The Lord Advocate——Thomas Shaw, Esq., M.P.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——In the Cabinet.
Attorney-General——Sir J. Lawson Walton, M.P.
Solicitor-General——Sir W. S. Robson, M.P.
Paymaster-General——R. K. Causton, Esq., M.P.

OTHER OFFICERS OF STATE.

Lord Steward——
Comptroller of the Household——The Master of ELIBANK, M.P.
Treasurer of the Household——Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Bt., M.P.
Lord Chamberlain——Rt. Hon. Viscount ALTHORP.
Vice-Chamberlain——WENTWORTH BEAUMONT, Esq., M.P.
Master of the Horse——Rt. Hon. Earl of SEFTON.
Captain Yeoman of the Guard——His Grace the Duke of MANCHESTER.
Lords-in-Waiting——
- Earl GRANVILLE.
- Earl of GRANARD.
- Lord HAMILTON of DALZELL.
- Lord ACTON.
- Lord DENMAN.
- Lord COLEBROOKE.
- Lord SUFFIELD.

Judge Advocate-General——T. MILVAIN, Esq., K.C.

SCOTLAND.

Secretary for Scotland and Keeper of the Great Seal——Rt. Hon. JOHN SINCLAIR.
Lord High Constable——Earl of ERROL.
Lord Privy Seal——Marquess of BREADELBANE, K.G.
Master of the Household——Duke of ARGYLL, K.T.
Lord High Commissioner——Lord KINNAIRD.
Lord Clerk Register——His Grace the Duke of MONTROSE, K.T.
Lord Justice General——Rt. Hon. Lord DUNEDIN.
Lord Advocate——Rt. Hon. THOMAS SHAW, K.C.
Lord Justice Clerk——Rt. Hon. Lord KINSBURGH, C.B.
Solicitor-General——ALEXANDER URE, Esq., K.C.
Register General and Deputy Keeper Great Seal—Sir STAIR AGNEW, K.C.B.
Commanding Forces——Lt.-Gen. E. P. LEACH, C.B., C.V.O.

IRELAND,

Lord-Lieutenant——Earl of ABERDEEN, G.C.M.G.
Chief Secretary and Keeper of Privy Seal——Rt. Hon. A. BIRRELL, M.P.
Under Secretary——Rt. Hon. Sir A. MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.
Private Secretaries——Lord HERSCHELL and WALTER CALLAN, Esq.
State Steward and Chamberlain——Viscount HAWKESBURY, M.V.O.
Controller——Major LAMBART.
Lord Chancellor——Lord Justice WALKER.
Attorney-General——Rt. Hon. R. R CHERRY, K.C., M.P.
Solicitor-General——REDMOND BARRY, Esq., K.C., M.P.
Commanding the Forces——Gen. Lord GRENFELL, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Chairman of Committees——Rt. Hon. Earl of Onslow.
Clerk of Parliaments——Sir Henry J. L. Graham, K.C.B.
Deputy Clerk of Parliaments (Clerk Assistant)——Hon. E. P. Thesiger, C.B.
Reading-Clerk and Clerk of Outdoor Committees——Edward Hall Alderson, Esq.
Counsel to the Chairman of Committees——Albert Gray, Esq.
Chief Clerk and Clerk of Public Bills——A. Harrison, Esq.
Senior Clerks——
  Clerk of the Journals——W. A. Leigh, Esq.
  Principal Clerk of Private Committees——J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.
  Principal Clerk, Judicial Department, and Taxing Officer of Judicial Costs——J. F. Skene, Esq.
  W. H. Hamilton Gordon, Esq.
  Peers' Printed Paper Office——C. L. Anstruther, Esq.
Other Clerks——Hon. A. McDonnell; A. H. Robinson, Esq. (Clerk of Private Bills and Taxing Officer of Private Bill Costs); H. P. St. John, Esq.; V. M. Biddulph, Esq.; Hon. E. A. Stonor; H. J. F. Badeley, Esq.; C. Headlam, Esq.; J. B. Hotham, Esq.; E. C. Vigors, Esq.; A. Tennyson, Esq.; G. D. Luard, Esq.; and G. Proby, Esq.
Receiver of Fees and Accountant——T. A. Court, Esq.
Copyists——Mr. H. P. Norris and Mr. R. A. Court.
Messengers——Messrs. A. A. Worfell, C. E. Chizlett, J. W. F Locke, J. McMillan, G. Bennett, G. T. Philip, W. S. Wright.
Librarian——Edmund Gosse, Esq., LL.D.
Assistant Librarian——A. H. M. Butler, Esq.
Attendant——Mr. A. N. Stott.
Examiners for Standing Orders——C. W. Campion, Esq.; J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.; Clerk——H. C. Bramwell, Esq.
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod——Admiral Sir F. H. Stephenson, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
Yeoman Usher——Captain T. D. Butler, M.V.O.
Serjeant-at-Arms——Lt.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir Fleetwood I. Edwards, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms——S. Hand, Esq.
Resident Superintendent——J. K. Williams, Esq.
Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
Principal Doorkeepers——Messrs. W. Chandler, E. Fox, F. Holman.
First Class Assistants——Messrs. C. Walker, J. Hedley, J. Lane, B. Gallop.
Second Class Assistants——Messrs. H. B. Strevens, G. W. Cross, W. Stopp.
Third Class Assistants——Messrs. J. Woolacott, A. A. Edney, J. F. Baum.
Messengers——Messrs. A. J. Solman, C. Chapman, W. Phillips, W. W. Meates, T. Whitehead.
Superintendent of Refreshment Rooms——Mr. W. Casbon.
Inspector of Police attending the House of Lords——Mr. A. Palmer.
Clerk of the Works, Houses of Parliament——Mr. P. E. Ridge.
Resident Engineer, Houses of Parliament——Mr. A. P. Patey.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Clerk of the House of Commons——Sir Courtenay Peregrine Ilbert, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.
Clerk-Assistant——Arthur W. Nicholson, Esq.
Second Clerk-Assistant——T. L. Webster, Esq.
Principal Clerks——
  Public Bill Office, and Clerk of Fees——W. Gibbons, Esq., C.B.
  Clerk of the Journals——W. H. Ley, Esq.
  Committee Office——F. St. George Tupper, Esq.
  Private Bill Office——J. H. W. Somerset, Esq.
Senior Clerks——C. V. Frere, Esq.; G. C. Giffard, Esq.; Sir E. H. Doyle, Bart.; S. L. Simeon, Esq.; Arthur I. Dasent, Esq.; Horace West, Esq.
Assistant Clerks——Henry A. Ferguson-Davie, Esq.; Arthur H. Ellis, Esq.; Percy A. Bull, Esq.; F. R. Williams Wynn, Esq.; W. E. Grey, Esq.; F. C. Holland, Esq.; J. W. G. Bond, Esq.; H. C. Dawkins, Esq.; R. P. Colomb, Esq.; B. H. Fell, Esq.; R. E. Childers, Esq.; J. Scott Porter, Esq.
Junior Clerks——F. C. Bramwell, Esq.; W. T. Legge, Esq.; C. R. Turner, Esq.; W. K. Gibbons, Esq.; W. P. Johnston, Esq.; J. Barlow, Esq.; Hon. H. R. C. Balfour; R. N. Bailey, Esq.; G. F. M. Campion, Esq.; S. De la Poer Beresford, Esq.; H. S. Green, Esq.

Serjeant-at-Arms——H. D. ERSKINE, Esq., C.V.O.
Deputy Serjeant——F. R. GOSSET, Esq.
Assistant Serjeant——W. H. ERSKINE, Esq.
Office Messenger——Mr. C. J. H. SHEARN.
Chaplain to the House——The Ven. Archdeacon BASIL WILBERFORCE, D.D.
Secretary to the Speaker——Hon. EDWARD GULLY, C.B.
Counsel to the Speaker——Hon. Sir E. CHANDOS LEIGH, K.C., K.C.B
Trainbearer——Mr. W. MURRELL.
Messenger——Mr. W. HOLT.
Collector of Fees on Private Bills——C. L. LOCKTON, Esq.
Clerk to Referees——Sir E. H. DOYLE, Bart.
Examiners of Private Bills——C. W. CAMPION, Esq. ; J. F. SYMONS JEUNE, Esq
Taxing Master——C. W. CAMPION, Esq. ; Clerk——F. C. BRAMWELL, Esq.
Vote Office——
  Principal Clerk——PHILIP SMITH, Esq.
  Assistant Clerks——JOHN POYSER, Esq. ; W. K. SANDERSON, Esq.
  Messenger——Mr. JOHN EDWARDS.
Librarian——R. C. WALPOLE, Esq. ; Assistant Librarian——A. E. A. W. SMYTH, Esq. Clerks in Library——Messrs. J. R. CRIMP, WM. STEWART : Messengers——Messrs. A. FIRMIN, W. HAGUE.
Shorthand Writer——W. H. GURNEY SALTER, Esq.
Printers——
  Journals——G. E. BRISCOE EYRE, Esq.
  Votes——J. B. NICHOLS, Esq. (for H. M. Stationery Office.)
Postmaster——Mr. I. LINCOLN ; Hall Keeper——Mr. J. GLYNN.
Office Keeper——Mr. H. BULLOCK.
Office Clerk in Committee Office——Mr. T. FIELDEN MITCHELL.
Office Clerk in Journal Office——Mr. A. A. TAYLOR.
Messengers——Messrs. C. DAVIE, H. JONES, G. D. WELLER, J. ARMSTRONG, J. WOODWARD, J. IVORY, G. NORMAN, J. SURREY, A. SEPPLE.
Doorkeepers——Mr. M. INGLEFIELD and Mr. H. HAMBLING.
Messengers (1st Class)——Mr. C. WOODCRAFT, Mr. R. ROBERTSON, Mr. J. HILLS, Mr. J. SPRAGUE, Mr. A. ANDREWS, Mr. T. B. SPRAY, Mr. G. ANSTEY, Mr. J. H. DAY, Mr. J. HENDERSON, Mr. G. WAINWRIGHT, Mr. J. GUYATT.
Messengers (2nd Class)——Messrs. R. TURTLE, A. HASKELL, A. C. JOHNSON, G. CLAPPERTON, H. E. LININGTON, H. G. EMMETT, J. L. PHILIP, W. FINDLAY, W. MACDONALD, W. R. BRIMSON.
Superintendent of Members' Waiting Room——Mr. J. F. HENLEY ; Assistant——Mr. W. BROADBENT ; Porters——Messrs. J. HART and G. FRY.
Inspector of Police attending the House of Commons——Mr. SCANTLEBURY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME CLXXI.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION, 1907.

HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Baines' Name Bill [H.L.].

Moved, "That this Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*) Page

Lord Ashbourne 1
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Onslow*) 2
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 3

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and committed.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Buckhaven Dock [H.L.].

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 3

Barnsley, Wombwell and Wath Tramways Bill [H.L.]. The Order of Thursday last, referring the Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee, discharged.. .. 3

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporaion Bill [H.L.]; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection .. 3

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Leave given to the Select Committee to continue sitting in the absence of the Viscount Iveagh 3

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Judgments of the Divisional Court, Court of Appeal, and House of Lords in the case of The King *v.* The County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire 3

Treaty Series No. 9 (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom and Switzerland respecting commercial travellers' samples; signed at Berne, 20th February, 1907.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 4

Board of Education.—Report of the Board of Education, for the year 1905–1906, on the administration of schools under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act. 1889 4

Shop Hours Act, 1904 (Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight).—Order made by the council of the borough of Newport, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain shops within the borough.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 4

NEW BILLS.

Dental Companies (Restrictions of Practice) Bill [H.L.]. (No 15.)—A Bill to prohibit joint stock companies from carrying on practice as dentists or dental surgeons except by means of duly qualified persons; and.. .. 4

Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies Bill [H.L.]. (No. 16.)—A Bill to prohibit joint stock companies from acting as physicians, surgeons, or medical practitioners; Were presented by the Lord Hylton; read 1ª; and to be printed 4

The Holding of Land in Scotland.

The Earl of Camperdown 4
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 6

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills (Standing Order 66 not Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 66 has not been complied with, viz., South Wales Mineral Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 7

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz., Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bills.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 8

Galwey's Divorce Bills [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed .. 8

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill (BY ORDER); Great Central Railway Bill (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed 8

Bristol Corporation Bill (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 8
Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 8

Bill read a second time and committed.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour:—From Alma; Bagworth; Bailey Brook; Balgonie; Birley; Birley (No. 2); Blackrod; Bruntcliffe; Buckhaven; Carlton Main; Coaltown of Wemyss; Corton Wood; Crossgates; Dearne Valley; Denbeath; Donibristle; Dronfield; Elsecar; Fence; Fordell; Hightown; Houghton Main; Hoyland; Ibstock; Langley and Marlpool; Langwith; Lassodie; Lea Green; Lidgett; Lochgelly; Lochore; Lofthouse; Low Laithes; Lumphinnans; Markham; Measham; Methil; Mithilkill; Nailstone; Netherton; Newmarket Silkstone; New Oaks; Normanton; Oakley; Oargreave; Rawdon; Renishaw Park; Reservoir; Roundwood; Sharlston; Shaw Cross and Chidswell; South Leicestershire; Stourton Grange; Sutton Heath; Syndale; Thornhill; Townhill; Udston; Upper Hartshay; Wakefield (Robin Hood); Warreley; Wath Main; Wellsgreen; Wellwood; West Sharlston; and, York Collieries; to lie upon the Table 9

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Woodham, against; to lie upon the Table 9

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Rugeley, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 9

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th March; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 69] 9

BOARD OF EDUCATION (WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION ACT, 1889).—Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Education for the year 1905–6 on the Administration of Schools, under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 77] 9

Mar. 13.] *Page*

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st February; *Mr. Sloan*]; to lie upon the Table 10

HARBOUR, ETC., BILLS (HULL AND BARNSLEY RAILWAY BILL).—Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*) 10

CROWN AGENTS.—Address for "Return showing the total amount, including loans, on which any commission was charged or received by the Crown Agents for the Colonies during 1904, 1905, and 1906, differentiating between (1) commercial, railway, and general business, and (2) financial, loan, and miscellaneous business; the total amount of commission charged or received in each year; and the separate totals debited and commission charged to each Colony and Protectorate in each of the said years (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 264, of Session 1904)."—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*) .. 10

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PERSONS RECEIVING POLICE PROTECTION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 10

THE AMERICAN MAILS—PROPORTION FOR NORTH OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND—DELAYS IN DELIVERY.—Questions, Colonel Philipps (Southampton); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 13

POST OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AT CALDERCRUIX, N.B.—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 13

DUBLIN POSTMEN AND SORTERS' EXAMINATION.—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor; Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 14

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 14

WELSH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. E. Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, Mr. McKenna 17

IMPRISONMENT OF MARTIN HAWES IN GALWAY GAOL.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 17

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF ELLEN KIERNAN.—Question, Mr. V. Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 17

AGE RETIREMENT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Runciman 18

APPOINTMENTS TO STAFF OF COLONIAL AUDIT BRANCH, EXCHEQUER AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Runciman 18

MESSENGERS AND CLERKS IN THE BOARD OF WORKS OFFICE, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Runciman 19

THE EDALJI CASE.—Question, Mr. P. Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 19

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND SECOND CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON MOTOR TRAINS.—Question, Mr. C. Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 20

Mar. 13.] *Page*

REGISTRATION OF LIMITED COMPANIES.—Question, Mr. S. Smith (Westmoreland, Kendal); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 21

FREE CHURCH APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, Mr. T. Shaw 21

FILLING OF VACANCY ON SCOTTISH CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 21

PLAN OF MEETING OF FREE CHURCH AND UNITED FREE CHURCH ASSEMBLIES.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. T. Shaw 22

GAMBLING IN BANK SHARES ON THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Asquith 23

WAGES OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS IN WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Haldane 23

CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.—Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 23

STRENGTH OF HORSE AND FIELD ARTILLERY.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Haldane 24

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

NAVAL REPAIRING STATIONS.—Question, Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Lambert, Devonshire, South Molton) 23

CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.—Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; Answer, Mr. Haldane 23

ARMY RESERVE FIGURES.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Haldane 24

DISBANDED LINE BATTALIONS.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Haldane 25

INSOLVENCY OF ARBUTHNOT AND COMPANY.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 25

LAHORE PRESS PROSECUTION.—Questions, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.), Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs), Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. C. Hobhouse 26

JOHANNESBURG IMMORALITY PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 27

GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Mr. Lehmann (Leicester, Market Harborough); Answer, Mr. Churchill 27

NEW HEBRIDES EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. S. Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness); Answer, Mr. Churchill 28

Mar. 13.] *Page*

RUSSO-JAPANESE CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 28

ANGLO-RUSSIAN CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Smeaton; Answer, Mr. Runciman 29

PORTUGUESE TARIFF ON IMPORTED FISH.—Question, Mr. Esslemont (Aberdeen, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 29

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. 29

INCOME TAX ON EASTER OFFERINGS.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 29

CLERKENWELL SESSIONS.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 30

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.—Question, Mr. V. Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 30

RATE SUMMONS FEES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 31

THE WRECK OF THE "BERLIN."—Questions, Sir E. Sassoon (Hythe), Mr. Weir, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 31

GERMAN TARIFF ON WELSH SLATES.—Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 32

CANADIAN WHEAT EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Remnant; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 33

UNEXPLOITED MARKETS.—Question, Mr. Remnant; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 35

CANADIAN PREFERENCE.—Question, Sir G. S. Robertson (Bradford, Central); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 35

RAILWAY FREIGHTS FOR FURNITURE.—Question, Mr. V. Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 36

UNEMPLOYED FUND.—Questions, Mr. Haddock (Lancashire, North Lonsdale), Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. J. Burns, Battersea) 36

UNEMPLOYMENT IN MANCHESTER.—Question, Mr. Clynes; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 37

LONDON UNEMPLOYED.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 37

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT—QUALIFICATION FOR ASSISTANCE.—Question, Mr. G. Roberts (Norwich); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 38

SOCIETIES' JOURNALS—POSTAL RATES.—Question, Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central); Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 38

Mar. 13.] *Page*

POST OFFICE SERVICE RULES.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 39

BATTLE POST OFFICE STAFF.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 39

EDUCATION CODE FOR WALES.—Question, Sir W. Anson (Oxford University); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 39

WELSH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.—Questions, Mr. Courthope, Mr. E. Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, Mr. McKenna 40

SCOTTISH ECCLESIASTICAL ASSESSMENTS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 40

TWEED FISHERY RIGHTS.—Question, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 41

PROSECUTION OF MORAY FIRTH TRAWLERS.—Question, Mr. Sutherland (Elgin Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 41

SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERIES—BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 41

CROFTER LEASEHOLDERS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 42

ISLAND OF LEWIS. COMMON GRAZINGS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 42

THE ARBROATH DISASTER.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. T. Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 42

MORAY FIRTH TRAWLERS.—Questions, Mr. T. Wilson, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N)., Mr. Weir, Mr. Ferens (Hull, E.); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 43

WESTMEATH UNTENANTED LANDS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 44

LAND ACT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell, Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.), Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 44

EVICTED TENANTS—NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR REINSTATEMENT.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 45

HEIRS OF EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 46

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 46

EVICTED TENANTS STATISTICS.—Question, Captain Craig; Question, Mr. Birrell 46

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT.—Question, Mr. S. MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 46

IRISH RESIDENT MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. S. MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Birrell 47

Mar. 13.] *Page*

LEITRIM BOYCOTTING TRIAL.—Questions, Captain Craig, Mr. Kilbride; Answer, Mr. Birrell 48

GOODALL ESTATE, ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 49

CROFTON ESTATE, LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 49

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, DUBLIN—THE LIBRARY.—Questions, Mr. H. Law (Donegal, W.), Mr. H. Burke (King's County, Tullamore); Answer, Mr. Birrell 50

GOOSEBERRY MILDEW IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 51

AGRARIAN TROUBLES IN COUNTY CLARE.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 51

CLANRICARDE ESTATE PLANTERS.—Questions, Mr. J. Roche (Galway, E.), Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 52

LABOURERS' COTTAGE SCHEME IN COUNTY ANTRIM.—Question, Mr. C. Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 52

GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND ENGLAND'S INFLUENCE.—Question, Mr. C. Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 53

BEALE NATIONAL SCHOOLMASTER.—Question, Mr. T. O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 53

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS—CLOVENEDEN MEETING.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Moore; Answer, Mr. Birrell 54

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION AT ARMAGH.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Birrell 55

INTIMIDATION ON RYAN'S ESTATE, GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Birrell 55

COUNTY COURT LAND VALUERS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 56

CRIME IN LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 56

CASE OF MRS. KATE SCANLAN.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Birrell 56

YOUGHAL BAY SALMON FISHERY.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 57

SWINFORD LANDLORDS, PRESSING FOR RENT.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 57

RATHMULLAN BREAKWATER.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 58

Mar. 13.] *Page*

NORTH DONEGAL HARBOURS.—Question. Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Birrell 59

LATTIN EVICTED HOLDING.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 59

POWERS OF IRISH MAGISTRATES—APPEALS.—Question, Mr. S. MacNeill; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, N., Exchange) 60

JURY CHALLENGES AT THE CORK ASSIZES.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Runciman; Answer, Mr. Cherry 61

IRISH LAND ACT PROBLEMS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Runciman 62

ADVANCES UNDER THE LAND ACT ON INSOLVENT PROPERTY.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Runciman 63

TAYLORSTOWN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 64

NEWCASTLE WEST (LIMERICK) POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 65

DONEGAL POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 65

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Redmond John Barry, esquire, K.C., for the county of Tyrone (North Tyrone Division) 66

NEW BILLS.

Education of Afflicted Children (Ireland) Bill.—"To provide for the better Education of Afflicted Children in Ireland," presented by Mr. Charles Craig; supported by Mr. Moore, Mr. Hugh Barrie, Mr. Lonsdale, and Captain Craig; to be read a second time upon Monday, 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 102] 66

Civil Bill Courts (Dublin) Bill.—"To improve the procedure and make better provision for discharge of the business of the Civil Bill Courts of the City and County of Dublin," presented by Mr. John Gordon; supported by Mr. Harrington and Mr. Waldron; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 103].. 66

Building Lands (Scotland) Bill.—"To deal with Building Lands in Scotland," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Mr. Lamont; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 104] .. 66

PRIVILEGES.—Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Blake, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Ellis, Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, and Mr. John Wilson (Durham) were nominated Members of the Committee of Privileges.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, Papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 66

Mar. 13.] *Page*

SUPPLY [11TH MARCH] REPORT

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907–8 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).—" That a sum, not exceeding £21,410,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, viz. :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS II.

	£.
Colonial Office	25,000

CLASS IV.

Scientific Investigation, etc.	24,000
Board of Education	7,000,000

CLASS I.

Royal Palaces	20,000
Osborne	5,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	50,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	20,000
Salisbury Memorial	—
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	30,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	25,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	50,000
Revenue Buildings	210,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	200,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	15,000
Peterhead Harbour	10,000
Rates on Government Property	290,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	95,000
Railways, Ireland	35,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—

House of Lords Offices	10,000
House of Commons Offices	20,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments	40,000
Home Office	70,000
Foreign Office	24,000
Privy Council Office	5,000
Board of Trade	90,000
Mercantile Marine Services	32,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	500
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	60,000
Charity Commission	15,000

	£
Civil Service Commission	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry	3,000
Local Government Board	85,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	5
National Debt Office	6,000
Public Record Office	10,000
Public Works Loan Commissioner	500
Registrar General's Office	15,000
Stationery and Printing	330,000
Woods, Forests, &c., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	34,000
Secret Service	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland, Office of	25,000
Fishery Board	5,000
Lunacy Commission	2,500
Registrar General's Office	1,500
Local Government Board	5,000

Ireland :—

Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary's Offices and Subordinate Departments	10,000
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	90,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000
Local Government Board	30,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	16,000
Registrar General's Office	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	7,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges	30,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	16,000
County Courts	2
Police, England and Wales	15,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	320,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	12,000

Scotland :—

	£
Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission	2,000
Prisons	35,000

Mar. 13.] *Page*

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	25,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	43,000
Land Commission	100,000
County Court Officers, &c.	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons	52,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	4,000

CLASS IV.

United Kingdom and England :—

British Museum	60,000
National Gallery	10,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	3,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000

Scotland :—

Public Education	850,000
National Galleries	3,000

Ireland :—

Public Education	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	2,000
Queen's Colleges	2,500

CLASS V.

Diplomatic and Consular Services	250,000
Colonial Services	350,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	25,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid)	49,000

CLASS VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	300,000
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,150
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	—

CLASS VII.

Temporary Commissions	28,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	7,943
Repayment to the Local Loans Fund	—
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Total for Civil Services	£13,980,000

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Customs	£350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	6,250,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,410,000

Resolution read a second time.

Mr. Boland (*Kerry, S.*) 70

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£21,410,000,' and to insert '£21,409,900,'"—(*Mr. Boland*).

Question proposed, "That '£21,410,000' stand part of the Resolution."

Mr. Gwynn (*Galway*) 77
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury*) .. 79
Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) 81
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 82
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 85

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir W. Anson (*Oxford University*) 86
Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S.W.*) 91
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 95
Dr. Rutherford (*Middlesex, Brentford*) 99
The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.*) 101
Mr. Stuart Wortley (*Sheffield, Hallam*) 108
Sir G. Kekewich (*Exeter*) 109
Sir Alfred Thomas (*Glamorganshire, E.*) 110
Mr. Summerbell (*Sunderland*) 110
Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 111
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) 113
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 116
Mr. Charles Roberts (*Lincoln*) 119
Mr. Fletcher (*Hampstead*) 120
Mr. Adkins (*Lancashire, Middleton*) 121
Sir Henry Craik (*Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities*) 123
Mr. Rogers (*Wiltshire, Devizes*) 124
Mr. Bowles (*Lambeth, Norwood*) 125
Mr. Walsh (*Lancashire, Ince*) 126

Resolution agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS [12TH MARCH] REPORT.

"That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, the sum of £71,715 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

"That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, the sum of £38,114,700 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

First Resolution read a second time, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Runciman.

Second Resolution to be considered to-morrow.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT.

Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, N.) 126
Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.) 128

Motion made and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, the presence of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act on the Statute-book is a gross violation of the Constitution, without parallel in any other portion of His Majesty's dominions, and that the Act should be immediately repealed."—(*Mr. Hogan.*)

Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.) 133
The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) .. 140
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) 146
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 152
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 152
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 155

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 252 ; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 43.)

Harbour, etc., Bills (Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th March ; *Mr. Lloyd-George*], to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 78.]

Adjourned at eleven minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with: Burnley Corporation, Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 161

Mar. 13.] *Page*

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Boston Spa Gas Bill, and the South Eastern, and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill, ought to be dispensed with.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by the Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers) Bill, ought to be dispensed with, subject to Clause 18 being modified, so as to apply only to the intended railways and to those companies concerned whose shareholders approve thereof, and to Clause 20 being struck out.

And that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill ought to be dispensed with, subject to the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 9A, being struck out of the Bill.

Read and agreed to.

Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Thornaby Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Read 2ª, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 161

West Riding Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 162

Barnsley, Wombwell and Wath Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Burnley Corporation Bill, Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill.—Examiners' Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Wednesday next 162

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn: read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 25th and 28th of February last discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next 162

Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 25th and 28th of February last discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next 162

Baines' Name Bill [H.L.].

The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Onslow*) 162

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ARMY RESERVE).—Statement showing: Actuarial calculation of the normal strength of the 1st Class Army Reserve; and
Explanation of the difference between the actual strength on the 1st October, 1899, and the normal 163

Mar. 14.] Page

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854-1894.—Eighteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission; with Appendix 163

TEACHERS' PENSION FUND (IRELAND).—Reports on the valuation of the Teachers Pension Fund (Ireland) on 31st December, 1905 163

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland, for the year 1906 163

MISCELLANEOUS, No. 1, (1907).—Translation of the alien law of the Republic of Honduras, 8th February, 1906.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie upon the Table 163

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).—Order made by the council of the county of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the urban districts of Royton, Failsworth, Crompton, Lees, Littleborough, and Milnrow. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 164

Companies Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Granard 164

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Granard*).

Lord Avebury 169
Lord Faber 170
Lord Glantawe 173
Lord Ashbourne 173
Lord Courtney of Penwith 174
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 175
The Marquess of Salisbury 175
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 176

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

County Courts Bill [H. L.]. [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for Reading read.

The Lord Chancellor 176

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Ashbourne 177
Viscount Cross 178
Lord James of Hereford 179

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Judicature Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Mar. 14.] *Page*

Clause 1 :—

The Lord Chancellor 180

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'Chancellor' to insert the words 'to be given only if he is satisfied that there is special cause.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to. Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendment to be received on Monday next; and Bill be printed as amended. (No. 17.)

Agricultural Holdings Act.

The Earl of Camperdown 180
The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) 181
The Marquess of Londonderry 183
The Earl of Crewe 184
The Marquess of Lansdowne 185
Lord Heneage 186

House adjourned at Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bill Petitions (Standing Orders not complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners for Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—Burnley Corporation Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 187

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—"To empower the London County Council to construct and work new tramways and to alter and reconstruct existing tramways and make street improvements and other works in the County of London; and for other purposes." Presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time .. 187

Mar. 14.] *Page*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders Confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 187

London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Scheme confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 187

London and North-Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 187

North Staffordshire Railway Bill; Basingstoke Gas Bill; Bude Gas Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill.—Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed .. 187

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table 188

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 188

Private Bills (Group A).—Sir Frederick Banbury reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 188

PETITIONS.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour. From Aldwarke; Auchinraith; Blantyre; Bolsover; Clay (No. 4) Pit; Grassmoor; Gwaunclawdd; Killamarsh; Manners; North Staveley; Oxcroft; Park Lane; Pleasley; Ripley; Silverwood; Tibshelf; Tyldesley; Waingroves; Warsop Main; Wellshot; West Hallam; and Windygates; to lie upon the Table 188

Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Ayr, in favour; to lie upon the Table 188

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Arrests for Drunkenness (Ireland)—Return [presented 13th March] to be printed. [No. 79] 188

Army Reserve.—Copy presented, of Statement showing (1) Actuarial Calculation of the Normal Strength of the 1st Class Army Reserve; and (2) Explanation of the Difference between the Actual Strength of the 1st October, 1899, and the Normal [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 188

Honduras (Alien Law) (Miscellaneous, No. 1, 1907).—Copy presented, of Translation of the Alien Law of the Republic of Honduras, 8th February, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 189

Mar. 14.] Page

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).—Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 189

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854 TO 1894.—Copy presented, of Eighteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission, with Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 189

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the County of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of shops within the urban districts of Royton, Failsworth, Compton, Lees, Littleborough, and Milnrow [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 189

TEACHERS' PENSION FUND (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Reports on the Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Fund (Ireland) on 31st December, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 189

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.—Address for "Return showing, for each petty sessional Court in England and Wales, the number and disposal of children and young persons under sixteen who were charged with offences during the last three months of 1906, and showing whether the defendants would probably have been released on probation under supervision, if such a system had been available; and also what steps, if any, are taken to separate children and young persons in Court from adult prisoners."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel*) 189

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

FOREIGN TRAWLERS IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 190

MUNICIPLE MILK DEPOT.—Question, Sir F. Banbury (City of London); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 190

REAFFORESTATION IN THE MIDLANDS.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 190

GLENSHARROLD EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 190

MERCER'S ESTATE, LONDONDERRY.—Question, Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 191

MOSLEMS IN CRETE.—Question, Sir S. King (Hull, Central); Answer, Sir E. Grey 191

ALIENS ACT.—Question, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 192

BELFAST LICENCE DUTIES.—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 193

OFFICERS GRANTS AND THE LONDON GAZETTE.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 193

SIR ANDREW FRASER AND ANGLO-INDIAN OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 194

Mar. 14.] Page

INDIAN RAILWAYS ROLLING STOCK.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Morley 194

INDIAN TRADE GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. Morley 194

NAWAB OF DACCA'S ESTATE.—Question, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Morley 195

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Question, Mr. T. O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 195

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. T. O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 196

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. T. O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 196

IRISH EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. T. O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Runciman 197

CARMICHAEL-O'FERRALL ESTATE, LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 197

IRISH FARMERS' HOUSING LOANS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 198

LAND PURCHASE DISPUTE AT LISNAGEERA.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 198

CARBERY EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. E. Barry (Cork County, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 199

DONEGAL HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Marquess of Hamilton (Londonderry); Answer, Mr. Birrell 199

CAVAN EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. V. Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 200

IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 201

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN IRELAND.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.) Answer, Mr. Birrell 201

EARL PARK OUTRAGE.—Question, Mr. Arkwright (Hereford); Answer, Mr. Birrell 201

INTIMIDATION IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 202

ROSCOMMON JURY'S ACTION.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Cherry .. 202

SOLDIERS' SONG BOOK.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 203

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEER CAMPS.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Haldane 203

Page

HARRODS' PACKERS' WAGES.—Question, Mr. Seddon (Lancashire, Newton); Answer, Mr. Haldane 204

IRELAND AND THE TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES BILL.—Question, Sir H. Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Haldane 204

MUSKETRY PRACTICE FOR THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.—Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire); Answer, Mr. Haldane.. 205

SLANDERING THE ARMY.—Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; Answer, Mr. Haldane 205

STANDERTON GARRISON'S WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Haldane 205

ARMY REFUNDS.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Mr. Haldane 206

TERRITORIAL AND RESERVE FORCES BILL.—Question, Sir H. Vincent.; Answer, Haldane 206

TRAINING SEAMEN FOR FOREIGN MERCANTILE MARINES.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam (Monmouth Boroughs); Answer, Sir E. Grey 207

EAST AFRICAN PROTECTORATE.—Question, Sir J. Randles (Cumberland, Cockermouth); Answer, Mr. Churchill 207

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD REPORTS.—Question, Mr. P. Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 207

LONDON MAIL VAN-DRIVERS' WAGES.—Question, Mr. Seddon; Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 208

CUSTOMS CLERKS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 209

CUSTOMS ASSISTANT CLERKS' MEMORIAL.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Runciman 209

DISTRIBUTION OF OIL ON HEAVY SEAS.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam; Answer, Mr. Kearley 209

DOCKYARD WRITERS' PETITIONS.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. E. Robertson 210

ASSAM COOLIES, CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Morley 120

BENGAL CHOWKIDARI TAX.—Question, Mr. Weir Answer, Mr. Morley .. 210

DOAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Colonel McCalmont (Antrim, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 211

IRISH LAND PURCHASE DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Birrell 211

CHARGE AGAINST NEWQUAY POLICEMAN.—Question, Mr. W. Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 212

Mar. 14.] *Page*

FUNGICIDE AS A REMEDY FOR GOOSEBERRY MILDEW.—Question, Mr. Belloc; Answer, Mr. Birrell 212

LABOURERS' HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AT CASTLEBAR.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 213

IRISH ARTERIAL DRAINAGE.—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor (Kildare, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 213

OFFICERS' EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS.—Question, Sir G. Fardell (Paddington, S.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 213

BALLINGOLLG BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. A. Roche (Cork); Answer, Mr. Haldane 214

THE BUTTER BILL.—Question, Mr. C. Warner (Stafford, Lichfield); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 214

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

CHANNELL AND HOME FLEETS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. E. Robertson, Dundee) 215

FLEET DISTRIBUTION.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. E. Robertson .. 215

THE COMMANDER OF THE HOME FLEET.—Questions, Mr. Bellairs, and Mr. Arthur Lea; Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson 215

NAVY HAT RIBBON TENDERS.—Questions, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood), Mr. A. Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.); Answers, Mr. E. Robertson, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 216

COLONIAL CONFERENCE AND DISARMAMENT.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex Brentford); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 217

TRINIDAD LABOURERS AND THE PANAMA CANAL.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex Rye); Answer, Mr. Churchill 217

COST OF TRANSVAAL ELECTION—Question, Mr. Straus (Tower Hamlets, Mile End); Answer, Mr. Churchill 217

COLONIAL CONFERENCE CORRESPONDENCE.—Questions, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answers, Mr. Churchill and The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 217

CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GERMANY.—Question, Sir G. Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Churchill 218

CANADIA AND AUSTRIAN TRADE.—Question, Sir G. Parker; Answer, Mr. Churchill 219

JAMAICA.—Questions, Mr. J. Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley); Answers, Mr. Churchill 219

Mar. 14.] *Page*

EGYPTIAN JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, Sir E. Grey — 220

EGYPTIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, W.), Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Sir E. Grey 221

LUNACY IN EGYPT.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Sir E. Grey 221

LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN EGYPT.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Sir E. Grey .. 222

HAGUE CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Sir E. Grey .. 222

COMMERCIAL ATTACHES.—Question, Mr. S. Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Sir E. Grey 222

COST OF COLLECTING COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—Questions, Mr. S. Roberts; Answers, Sir E. Grey 223

GERMAN AND AMERICAN TRADE ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Sir E. Grey 223

NEW SERVIAN TREATY.—Questions, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answers, Sir E. Grey 224

BRITISH VICE-CONSUL AT ANTWERP.—Question, Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central); Answer, Sir E. Grey 225

TURKISH IMPORT DUTIES AND THE BAGDAD RAILWAY.—Questions, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answers, Sir E. Grey 226

MACEDONIAN REFORMS.—Questions, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answers, Sir E. Grey 226

THE JAMAICAN INCIDENT.—Questions, Mr. J. Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley); Answers, Sir E. Grey 227

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. S. Roberts; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 228

INCOME TAX.—Questions, Mr. C. E. Price, Mr. A. Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie), Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs); Answers, Mr. Asquith 229

NAVAL VOTES DEFICITS.—Questions, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Mrs. Asquith .. 229

NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY.—Question, Sir W. E. Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 230

LICENSING LEGISLATION.—Questions, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 230

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND THE TRUCK ACTS.—Question, Mr. A. Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 231

METROPOLITAN POLICE DAY OF REST.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 231

Mar. 14.] *Page*

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 232

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.—Question, Mr. Ward (Stockton-on-Trent); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 232

DEFENCE OF PRISONERS.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 233

DISINFECTANTS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 233

GERMAN FARM COLONY AT WARE.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 233

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT.—Question, Mr. G. Roberts (Norwich); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 234

REGISTERS OF PAUPER ILLEGITIMATES.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 234

WHISKY.—Question, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 235

INSANITATION IN SOMERS TOWN.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. J. Burns .. 235

UNEMPLOYED GRANT.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 236

WAGES INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. A. Henderson, Mr. J. Ward; Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 236

RAILWAY CLERKS' HOURS.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, Mr. Kearley 237

PATENT LAWS.—Questions, Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans), Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answers, Mr. Kearley 237

TRAINING FOR THE MERCHANT SERVICE.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam) Monmouth Boroughs); Answer. Mr. Kearley 237

RAILWAY COMPANIES' ELECTION EXPENDITURE.—Questions, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland), Mr. Crooks (Woolwich), Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck); Answers, Mr. Kearley, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 238

BRISTOL TRAMS AND MINERS.—Question, Mr. H. Davies (Bristol, S.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 239

RAILWAY SERVANTS—HOURS OF LABOUR RETURN.—Question, Mr. Hudson (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, Mr. Kearley 239

ABERDEEN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, W.); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 239

RADIO-TELEGRAPHIC CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 240

POSTAL ADDRESSES.—Question, Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 240

Mar. 14] *Page*

New Zealand Mail Service.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 241

Canadian Postal Rates.—Questions, Mr. W. Priestley (Bradford, E.); Mr. R. Macdonald (Leicester); Answers, Mr. S. Buxton 247

Llanychan School.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman; Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna Monmouthshire) 242

Teachers' Compensation.—Question, Mr. P. Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. McKenna 242

Education (Special Instruction) Bill.—Question, Mr. Seaverns (Lambeth, Brixton); Answer, Mr. McKenna 242

Education Grant Application Form.—Questions, Mr. Carlile, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answers, Mr. McKenna 243

Educational Administration.—Question, Mr. Carlile; Answer, Mr. McKenna 243

Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs, and St. Barnabas Church, Tunbridge Wells—Illegal Practices Alleged.—Question, Sir D. B. Jones (Swansea District); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir J. Walton, Leeds, S.) .. 243

Married Women's Property Bill.—Question, Mr. J. M. Henderson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answer, Sir J. Walton 244

Page's Estate.—Question, Mr. J. Ward; Answer, Sir J. Walton 245

Beet Cultivation.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir E. Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 245

Agricultural Labour Employment Bureau.—Questions, Mr. Fell; Answers, Sir E. Strachey 245

Lord Egerton and his Tenants.—Question, Mr. Montagu (Cambridgeshire, Chesterton); Answer, Sir E. Strachey 246

Protection of Ancient Monuments.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) .. 247

Insanitary Water Supply at Ardler.—Questions, Mr. Wilkie (Dundee), Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 247

Moray Firth.—Question, Captain Waring (Banffshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 248

Scottish Churches Dispute.—Question, Mr. Findlay (Lanarkshire, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 248

Right of Way Case, Dunkeld.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 248

Moray Firth—Fishery Protection.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 249

Finn *v.* Campbell.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry (Liverpool, Exchange) 249

Mar. 14.]

Page

IRISH LAND PURCHASE DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Mr. Runciman 250

TUAM AND LIMERICK POSTAL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. J. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 250

STATUE OF WILLIAM III.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 251

CASE OF MR. C. G. HUNT.—Question, Mr. Carlile; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 251

THE BUTTER BILL.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 252

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 252

BERKS AND BUCKS STAGHOUNDS.—Question, Mr. G. Greenwood; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 252

SOUTH DEVON FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Mildmay (Devonshire, Totnes); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 253

SCOTTISH LAND LEGISLATION.—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 253

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London), Mr. A. Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.), Mr. S. Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness), Mr. A. Henderson; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 255

NEW BILLS.

Crofters' (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts, and to consolidate the Crofters Commission with the Congested Districts Commissioners in Scotland," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Sir Edward Tennant; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 105.] 256

Nurses' Registration Bill.—"To regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and to provide for their registration," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Sir John Dickson-Poynder, Mr. Rose, Mr. Rainy, Mr. Eve, Mr. Fell, Mr. Crooks, Sir George Robertson, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Jowett, and Mr. McKillop; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 106] 256

SUPPLY [7TH MARCH] REPORT [4TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Resolution reported—

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

1. "That 128,000 Officers, Seamen, and Boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Service for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, including 18,595 Royal Marines."

Mar. 14. *Page*

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,869,700, be granted to His Majesty to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

First Resolution read a second time.

Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) 257
Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis) 261
Captain Hervey (Bury St. Edmunds) 262
Mr. G. Croydon Marks (Cornwall, Launceston) 263
Mr. Cobbold (Ipswich) 265
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 267
Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth) 267
Mr. Bramsdon 269
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 270
Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) 270
Mr. Harold Cox (Preston) 274
Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness) 274
Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford) 276
Mr. G. H. Faber (Boston) 279
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 280
Mr. Havelock Wilson (Middlesbrough) 282
Mr. Verney (Buckinghamshire, N.) 283
Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside) 285
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 289
Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) 289
The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr Lambert. Devonshire, South Molton) 290
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 295
The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. 298

First Resolution agreed to.

Second Resolution read a second time.

Mr. Havelock Wilson (Middlesbrough) 300

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY] REPORT.

Resolutions reported :—

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

1. "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 190,000, all ranks, be maintained for the service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at home and abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £9,835,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for the pay, etc., of His Majesty's Army (including Army Reserve) at home and abroad (exclusive of India), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

First Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Viscount Valentia (Oxford) .. 302
Colonel Sandys (Lancashire, Bootle) .. 303
Mr. Murray Macdonald (Falkirk Burghs) .. 304
Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) .. 305
Mr. Menzies (Lancashire, S.) .. 307
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) .. 309

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put.

STANDING ORDERS.—Standing Order 167 relating to Private Business, read.

The Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. Emmott, Oldham) .. 312

Amendment proposed—

"In line 11, to leave out the word 'three' and insert the word 'four.'"—*(The Chairman of Ways and Means.)*

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the Standing Order."

Sir F. Banbury (City of London) .. 314
Captain Craig (Down, E.) .. 316
Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.) .. 319
Mr. Lupton .. 320

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 58; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 44.)

Word "four" there inserted in the Standing Order.

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY] REPORT.

Postponed Proceeding on Question, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the First Resolution, "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 190,000, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908," resumed.

Lord Balcarres .. 323
Mr. Cobbold (Ipswich) .. 324
Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs) .. 326
Mr. Lupton .. 327
Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington) .. 329
Mr. Carlile (Herts, St. Albans) .. 331
Mr. Maddison (Burnley) .. 332

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide, during twelve months, for the discipline and regulation of the Army; and that Mr. Secretary Haldane, Mr. Edmund Robertson, and Mr. Buchanan, do prepare and bring it in.

Army (Annual) Bill.—" To provide during twelve months, for the discipline and regulation of the Army," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 107.]

Supply [28th February] Report.—Second Resolution read a second time.

Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher (*Sussex, Lewes*) 335
Mr. Haldane 335

Resolution agreed to.

Ways and Means [12th March] Report.

Second Resolution, " That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the year ending on the 31st March, 1908, the sum of £38, 114,700, be granted out of the Consolidated Fund United Kingdom," agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Gentlemen appointed to bring in a Bill upon the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the 13th day of this instant March, and then agreed to by the House, that they do make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolution 336

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—" To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seven and one thousand nine hundred and eight," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next 336

Adjournment.

Motion made; and Question, " That this House do now adjourn "—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-eight minutes before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 337

Mar. 15.] *Page*

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Ackton Hall; Bersham; Blantyre Fame; Bothwell; Bowers (two); Calderbank; Cefn Brithdir; Dearham; Earnock; Eddlewood; Ferniegain; Frickley; Frystone (two); Gwersyllt; Halton; Kirkwood; Law; Moston; Nackerty; Newmains; Nostall; Peckfield; St. Helens; Shireoaks; Stock Field; Tibshelf; Uddingston; Victoria; Wheldale; Windber; and, Wollescote Collieries; to lie upon the Table 337

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Abernethy, against; to lie upon the Table 337

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 337

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Earl's Court, against; to lie upon the Table 337

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Northampton, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 337

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.—Petition from the Association of Trade Protection Societies, in favour; to lie upon the Table 337

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.—Copy presented, of Memorandum showing the Amendments proposed to the Army Act [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 338

ARMY (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).—Copy presented, of Statement of the Accounts due by the Public to Depositors on 31st March, 1905, and of the Receipts, Interest, and Disbursements during the year ended 31st March, 1906, etc. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 80] .. 338

PROBATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Probation System as at present in force in the United States of America [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 338

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

WORK AND DISCHARGES IN CHATHAM DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. E. H. Lamb (Rochester); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 338

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 338

STATE OF THE CONGO.—Question, Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 339

CANADA AND THE AGENDA FOR THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Churchill 339

LUNCHEON INTERVAL AT THE BOARD OF WORKS OFFICE, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Runciman 34

Mar. 15.] *Page*

Erection of Houses at Hampton Court—Contractors and the Fair Wages Clause.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 341

Publication of Attendance of Members of County Councils.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson; Answer, Mr. Wardle 341

Sentence on Driver Gourlay.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 341

Sale of the Bunnahow Estate, County Galway.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 342

Sale of the Lisanoner Ranch Estates, County Cavan.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 342

Father Dolphin and the Principal of Doohoma National School.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 343

Irish Constabulary and Dublin Metropolitan Police Recruits.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 344

Railways (Contracts) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Lambton (Durham, S.E.) 344
Mr. Hooper (Dudley) 348

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) 355
Mr. Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 360
Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) 362
Mr. Beale (Ayrshire, S.) 364
Mr. Abel Smith (Hertfordshire, Hertford) 366
Mr. Bright (Oldham) 367
Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire) 367
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 368
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 371
Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's) 374
Mr. Mond (Chester) 375
Mr. Clement Edwards (Denbigh Districts) 378
Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) 379
Mr. Charles Wilson (Hull, W.) 380

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Lloyd-George .. ..
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) .. ..
Sir F. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 381

Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Mar 15.] Page

Lights on Vehicles Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Major Renton (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) 381

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir F. Banbury 384
Mr. Adkins (Lancashire, Middleton) 385
Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) 385
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 387
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) 387
Colonel Sandys (Lancashire, Bootle) 387
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 388
Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness) 388
Mr. Marnham (Surrey, Chertsey) 389
Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) 389
Mr. Arthur Stanley (Lancashire, Ormskirk) 390
Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) 391
Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.) 391
The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Herbert Samuel, Yorkshire, Cleveland) 393
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 395
Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 397
Viscount Dalrymple (Wigtown) 399
Mr. W. Nicholson (Hants, Petersfield) 400

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law, &c., read a second time, and committed.

Licensed Premises (Election Days) Closing Bill.—Order for second reading read.

Mr. Charles Roberts (Lincoln) 400

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir F. Banbury 402

And, it being Five of the Clock, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) 403

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Joseph Pease.*)

Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.) 403

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Merchandise Marks Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc. 404

Political Pensions Bill.

Considered in Committee :—

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Friday, 19th April 404

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).—Mr. DAVID ALFRED THOMAS reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills : That for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 404

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection : That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill : Mr. Arthur Lee ; and had appointed in substitution : Viscount Morpeth.

Report to lie upon the Table 404

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at five minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read : Counsel called in : Moved that the Bill be now read 2ª : The same was agreed to ; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 405

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid on the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited [H.L.] ; Royal Bank of Scotland [H.L.]

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 405

Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.].—Presented (pursuant to leave given on Thursday last) ; read 1ª ; and referred to the Examiners 405

Mar. 18.] *Page*

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 405

Aberdeen Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.]; Buckhaven Dock Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 405

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]; Royal Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; Newquay and District Water Bill [H.L.]; West Yorkshire Tramway Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons .. 405

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill: Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Message from the Commons that they have come to the following Resolution to which they desire the concurrence of the House, viz., "That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons." The said message to be taken into consideration To-morrow 405

Kendal Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways Bill [H.L.]; North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Buckhaven Dock Bill [H. L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.) :—

V. Hampden,
L. Teynham,
L. Ravensworth,
L. Newton (chairman),
L. Weardale;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 406

Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill [H.L.]; Southend Water Bill [H.L.]; Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Portishead District Water Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.) :—

E. Scarborough,
E. Lauderdale (chairman).
E. Carnwath,
E. Verulam,
V. Colville of Culross;

agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April next, at Eleven o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 406

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.] ; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [H.L.] ; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [H.L.] ; Coventry Corporation Water Bill [H.L.] ; Colne Valley Water Bill [H.L.] ; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills ; (viz.)—

D. Wellington,
L. Zouche of Haryngworth,
L. Ribblesdale (Chairman),
L. Seaton,
L. Ritchie,

agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April next, at Eleven o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 407

Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills ; (viz.)—

M. Bath.
E. Hardwicke,
E. Camperdown (chairman),
L. Faber,
L. Haversham ;

agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly : The Committee to meet on Thursday, the 25th April next, at Eleven o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 407

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 407

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 1) BILL (NO. 19) ; LONDON GOVERNMENT SCHEME (SOUTHWARK BOROUGH MARKET) BILL, (NO. 20).—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners 408

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.—Returns of the agricultural holdings in each county of Great Britain, compiled from the returns collected by the Board of Agricutures and Fisheries in 1890, 1895, 1903, and 1906 408

Mar. 18.] *Page*

EMIGRATION.—Report on the Emigrants' Information Office, for the year ended 31st December, 1906 408

BOARD OF EDUCATION. Reports from universities and university colleges participating in the Parliamentary Grant, 1906 408

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.—Memorandum showing the amendments proposed to the Army Act 408

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Memorandum on the probation system as at present in force in the United States of America.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 408

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS).—Returns of description of qualifications of deputy-lieutenants lodged during 1906 as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland 408

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT, 1875.—Order in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, relating to the circuits of the Judges 408

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879, AND WINTER ASSIZES ACTS 1876.—Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, constituting Spring Assize Counties, Nos. 2 and 3, for the purpose of the ensuing Spring Assizes 409

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907—

Applying the provisions of Section 238 of the Act to deserters from Nicaraguan vessels;

Approving certain byelaws made by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board relating to the pilotage funds of the Liverpool District 409

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 11th March, 1907, providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops within the burgh of Leith.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 409

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report from the Committee of Selection, that the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

L. Saltoun,
L. Torphichen;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly 409

Statute Law Revision Bill [H.L.]—A Bill for further promoting the revision of the Statute Law by repealing enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary—Was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1^{a}; and to be printed. (No. 18) 409

Judicature Bill [H.L.]—Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^{a} on Wednesday next.

POPULATION OF CROFTING PARISHES.

Lord Saltoun 410

Moved, That there be laid before the House a return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881–1886, 1891–1896, and 1901–1906. —(*Lord Saltoun.*)

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 410

On Question, Motion, in amended form, viz., " That there be laid before the House a return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881, 1891, and 1901, and for any other years between 1881 and 1906 for which the information may be available "—(*Lord Saltoun*) ; agreed to ; and ordered accordingly.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS (CITY OF WORCESTER).—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from one of the Judges of the High Court of Justice a letter relating to the Election of the City of Worcester 411

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Central London Railway Bill ; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill ; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 412

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill 412

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 67 NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 67 has not been complied with, viz. :—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 413

Mar. 18.] Page

Emigration.—Report on the Emigrants' Information Office, for the year ended 31st December, 1906 408

Board of Education. Reports from universities and university colleges participating in the Parliamentary Grant, 1906 408

Army (Annual) Bill.—Memorandum showing the amendments proposed to the Army Act 408

United States of America.—Memorandum on the probation system as at present in force in the United States of America.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 408

Militia Act, 1882 (Deputy Lieutenants).—Returns of description of qualifications of deputy-lieutenants lodged during 1906 as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland 408

Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875.—Order in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, relating to the circuits of the Judges 408

Spring Assizes Act, 1879, and Winter Assizes Acts 1876.—Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, constituting Spring Assize Counties, Nos. 2 and 3, for the purpose of the ensuing Spring Assizes 409

Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.—Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907—

Applying the provisions of Section 238 of the Act to deserters from Nicaraguan vessels;

Approving certain byelaws made by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board relating to the pilotage funds of the Liverpool District 409

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 11th March, 1907, providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops within the burgh of Leith.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 409

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899.—Report from the Committee of Selection, that the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

L. Saltoun,
L. Torphichen;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly 409

Statute Law Revision Bill [H.L.]—A Bill for further promoting the revision of the Statute Law by repealing enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary—Was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 18) 409

Judicature Bill [H.L.]—Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Wednesday next.

POPULATION OF CROFTING PARISHES.

Lord Saltoun 410

Moved, That there be laid before the House a return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881–1886, 1891–1896, and 1901–1906. —(*Lord Saltoun.*)

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 410

On Question, Motion, in amended form, viz., " That there be laid before the House a return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881, 1891, and 1901, and for any other years between 1881 and 1906 for which the information may be available "—(*Lord Saltoun*); agreed to; and ordered accordingly.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS (CITY OF WORCESTER).—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from one of the Judges of the High Court of Justice a letter relating to the Election of the City of Worcester 411

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Central London Railway Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 412

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill 412

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 67 NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 67 has not been complied with, viz. :—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 413

Mar. 18.] Page

Boston Spa Gas Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 413

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Resolved, That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons. Message to the Lords to communicate this Resolution and to desire their concurrence.—(*Mr. Burns.*) 413

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).—Ordered, That Captain George Pirie do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock 413

Galwey's Divorce Bill [LORDS.]—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of Galwey's Divorce Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bills that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses for Galwey's Divorce Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned think fit to be heard by Counsel and produce Witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*) 413

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour—From Ashton Field; Barr's Camnethan; Bellshill; Blackheath; Dalzell and Broomside; Parr and Haydock; Radcliffe; Rowley Regis; Salsburgh; and Wharton Hall Collieries; to lie upon the Table 414

LICENSING ACTS.—Petition from West Surrey, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 414

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour—From Ashton under Lyne; Hampstead; Harrow; Keswich; and Southend-on-Sea; to lie upon the Table 414

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops in the Burgh of Leith [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 414

EMIGRATION.—Copy presented, of Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 414

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.—Copy presented, of Returns of the agricultural holdings in each county of Great Britain [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 415

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS, IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Return of descriptions of qualifications of deputy lieutenants lodged during 1906, as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 415

Mar. 18.]

Page

WINES IMPORTED.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th February; *Sir F. Banbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 81.] .. 415

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th February; *Mr. M'Crae*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 82.] 415

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Reports from Universities and University Colleges participating in the Parliamentary Grant, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 415

EDUCATION ACT, 1902 (RATES RAISED UNDER SECTION 18 (1)).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th May, 1906; *Mr. Birrell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 83.] 415

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879.—Copies presented, of two Orders in Council of 1st March, 1907, constituting Spring Assize Counties No. 2 and 3 for the purpose of the ensuing Spring Assizes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 415

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT, 1875.—Copy presented, of Order in Council dated 1st March 1907, relating to the Circuits of the Judges [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 415

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Copies presented, of Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907 (1) applying the provisions of Section 238 of the Act to deserters from Nicaraguan vessels; (2) approving certain by-laws made by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board relating to the Pilotage Funds of the Liverpool District [by Act], to lie upon the Table 416

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 14th March; *Mr. Herbert Samuel*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 84.] 416

TREATY SERIES (No. 10, 1907).—Copy presented, of International Agreement respecting the Unification of the Pharmacopœial Formulas for Potent Drugs, signed at Brussels, 29th November, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 416

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (County of Wilts).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901; *Mr. Griffith-Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 85.]

East India (Co-operative Credit Societies).—Address for "Return showing the progress of Co-operative Credit Societies in India."—(*Mr. Rees.*) 416

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

NAVAL EXPENDITURE OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, AND UNITED STATES.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. E. Robertson 416

EDUCATION ESTIMATES—INCREASE OF BUILDING GRANTS.—Question, Mr. P. Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. McKenna 417

COST OF TRANSFER OF ARMY ACCOUNTANTS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 417

Mar. 18.] *Page*

POST OFFICE UNIFORM CONTRACTORS.—Question, Mr. Wiles (Islington, S.); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 420

COST OF MEDICAL INSPECTION UNDER THE EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS) BILL.—Question, Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 421

EDUCATION EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. P. Pease; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 422

FOREIGN TRAWLERS IN MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Sir A. Bignold (Wick Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 422

TERRITORIAL FORCES BILL—TRANSFERS OF OUTSTANDING BALANCES.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 422

FIFTEEN-POUNDER GUNS FOR USE OF ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Mr. Walrond (Devonshire, Tiverton); Answer, Mr. Haldane 423

NEW ARMY SCHEME—IRISH MILITIA AND REGULAR BATTALIONS.—Question, Sir C. Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Deane); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 423

QUALIFICATIONS OF MILITARY ATTACHES TO FOREIGN COURTS.—Question, Sir W. E. Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Haldane 424

ARMY SERVICE WITH THE COLOURS AND RESERVES.—Question, Sir W. E. Gordon; Answer, Mr. Haldane 424

PURCHASE OF J. W. LEAH'S ESTATE AT AGHATUBRID.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 425

ALLEGED INTIMIDATION OF MR. BEIRNE AT TONLAGEE.—Question, Captain Hervey (Bury St. Edmunds); Answer, Mr. Birrell 425

WITHDRAWALS OF SALARIES OF IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. Birrell 426

BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT OF IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Birrell 426

DELAY IN SALE OF SIR E. HAYES' ESTATE AT LETTERKENNY.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 427

POACHING CONVICTION AT ATHENRY—ACTION OF MR. FRENCH.—Question, Mr. C. Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 427

EXTRA POLICE AT DOWRA, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. V. Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 428

ARREST OF NICHOLAS MORAN AT ATHENRY.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 428

ATHENRY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Birrell 429

FUNCTIONS OF BREVET-COLONEL A. J. ARNOLD AT BEIRA.—Question, Sir D. B. Jones (Swansea District); Answer, Mr. Haldane 429

Mar. 18.] *Page*

SUPPLY OF HAY FOR GLEN OF IMAAL ARTILLERY CAMP.—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 430

SUGGESTED LOAN TO JAMAICA FOR REBUILDING OF KINGSTON.—Question, Mr. Arnold Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Churchill 431

THE AUSTRALIAN PREFERENCE BILL.—Question, Mr. P. Pease; Answer, Mr. Churchill 431

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE ANHUI MINING FINAL CONTRACT.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Sir E. Grey 432

NATIONALITY OF PARSEE MERCHANT MURDERED AT YEZD.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery); Answer, Sir E. Grey 432

DISPOSAL OF SITE OF OLD WAR OFFICE.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Runciman 432

GRIEVANCES OF CLERKS TO SURVEYORS OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 432

PRISON REGULATIONS AND DIETARY.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyne); Answer, Mr. Gladstone.. 433

SCOTTISH POOR LAW ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. E. Wason (Clackmannan); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 434

DISPOSAL OF SITE OF DUKE OF YORK'S SCHOOL AT CHELSEA.—Question, Major Coates (Lewisham); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 434

COMMONER'S RIGHT OF CUTTING TURVES ON THE NEW FOREST.—Question, Sir R. Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. Runciman 435

STATE EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. C. B. Harmsworth (Worcestershire, Droitwich); Answer, Sir E. Strachey 435

AMERICAN GOOSEBERRY MILDEW IN IRELAND.—Question, Colonel R. Williams; Answer, Sir E. Strachey 436

PROVISION OF TRAINING COLLEGES AND HOSTELS.—Question, Mr. W. Hope (Somersetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 436

SALARIES OF RURAL MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.—Question, Sir W. Foster (Derbyshire); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 437

LIABILITY OF MARRIED WOMAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTENANCE OF HER PARENTS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 437

PROPOSED BURIAL GROUND AT GREAT STANMORE.—Question, Mr. Gibb (Middlesex, Harrow); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 438

ABOLITION OF THE SUGAR TAX.—Question, Colonel Harrison-Broadley (Yorkshire, E. R. Howdenshire); Answer, Mr. Asquith 438

APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITORS IN THE ESTATE DUTY OFFICES.—Question.—Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Asquith.. 439

Mar 18.] *Page*

INDIAN NATIVE CIVIL SERVANTS AND INDIAN FAMILY PENSIONS FUND.—Question, Mr. H. Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Morley. 439

MANUFACTURING OF SYNTHETIC INDIGO.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 440

LAND CASES IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 440

PAYMENT OF RENT BY TENANTS ON THE ABRAHAM EVANS ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim. N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 441

PROSECUTIONS FOR NON-ATTENDANCE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT BELFAST.—Question, Mr. Mooney; Answer, Mr. Birrell 441

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.—Question, Major Coates; Answer, Mr. Birrell 442

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF MR. E. FLAVIN.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 442

DISPOSAL OF FINES UNDER THE IRISH EDUCATION ACT, 1892.—Question, Mr. Hammond (Carlow); Answer, Mr. Birrell 443

INSPECTION OF ESTATES OF H. ATKINS AND MR. SINCLAIR IN COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. S. Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 443

EVICTED TENANTS ON SIR R. HUDSON'S ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN); Question, Mr. S. Young; Answer, Mr. Birrell 444

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION IN NORTH WEST MAYO.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 444

EXPENSES OF INNISHLYRE HARBOUR CONSTRUCTION, COUNTY MAYO.—Question, Mr. Ambrose; Answer, Mr. Birrell 445

PURCHASE OF MR. J. LLOYD'S ESTATE AT LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. K. O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 446

PURCHASE OF GRAZING LANDS OF MR. J. BENNET AND MR. G. MITCHELL.—Question, Mr. K. O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Birrell 447

PURCHASE OF GRAZING LAND OF SURGEON-GENERAL ROE.—Question, Mr. K. O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Birrell 447

VACANCY OF IRISH BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Birrell 447

IMPROVEMENT OF BURTONPORT HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. H. Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 448

PROTESTANTS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS IN THE DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 488

Mar. 18.] *Page*

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Supplementary Naval Officers.—Question, Mr. H. Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Lambert, Devonshire, S. Molton) 488

London County Council Generating Station at Greenwich.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Lambert 449

Admiralty Contracts.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Lambert 449

Naval Construction.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, Mr. Lambert 450

Loss of the Jena.—Question, Mr. King (Cheshire, Knutsford ;) Answer, Mr. Lambert 450

Battleship Nucleus Crews.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Lambert 450

Naval Distribution.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Lambert 451

Cavalry Regiments for Scotland.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, The Secretary of State for War, (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 451

Officers' Mess Furniture—War Office Charges.—Question, Mr. Verney (Buckinghamshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 452

Barrack Furniture—Annual Charge to Officers.—Question, Mr. Verney; Answer, Mr. Haldane 453

Soldiers' Rations.—Question, Major Anstruther Gray; Answer, Mr. Haldane 453

Soldiers' Trousers Pocket Order.—Question, Mr. Lea (St Pancras, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 454

Sandhurst Cadets Ungazetted.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Haldane 454

Territorial Force Bill.—Question, Lord Balcarres; Answer, Mr. Haldane 455

Colombo Port Trust.—Question, Mr. Smeaton; Answer, The Under-Secretary for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill) 455

Police Outrage on the Niger.—Question, Mr. C. Wason; Answer, Mr. Churchill 455

Indian Traders in Natal.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Mr. Churchill 456

Uganda Railway.—Question, Mr. Wedgewood; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 457

South African Land Settlement Fund.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman; Answer, Mr. Churchill 457

Forced Labour in Fiji.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards; Answer, Mr. Churchill 458

Mar. 18.] *Page*

BRITISH EAST AFRICA—NATIVE UNREST.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Churchill 459

CHINESE LABOUR CONTRACTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Churchill 459

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION.—Questions, Sir H. Vincent (Sheffield), Sir G. Parker (Gravesend), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 459

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE LINGUISTIC REQUIREMENTS.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Borough); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Drewsbury) 461

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.): Answer, Mr. Runciman 462

LABOUR AT SAN THOMÉ AND PRINCIPÉ.—Question, Mr. Arkwright (Hereford); Answer, Mr. Runciman 402

TAXATION OF PUBLIC HOUSE LICENCE VALUES.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) .. 462

PROVISION FOR OLD AGE.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 463

INCOME TAX COLLECTION.—Question, Mr. A. Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie); Answer, Mr. Asquith 463

THE NATIONAL CREDIT.—Questions, Sir H. Vincent, Sir F. Banbury (City of London), Mr. C. Money (Paddington), Mr. T. L. Corbett; Answers, Mr. Asquith 464

JUDGES' CIRCUIT ALLOWANCES.—Questions, Mr. Morton (Sutherland), Lord R. Cecil; Answer, Mr. Runciman 466

CASE OF CHARLES WEATHERLEY.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 467

SEPARATION ORDERS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Henderson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 467

HOUSE OF COMMONS POLICE.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 468

PENTONVILLE PRISON WARDERS.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 468

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.—Questions, Mr. C. Wason, Mr. K. Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 409

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL LOANS.—Questions, Sir H. Vincent, Sir E. Cornwall (Bethnal Green, N.E.), Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. A. Chamberlain; Answer, Mr. J. Barns 469

LICENCE VALUES AND RATES ASSESSMENTS.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 471

SPOTTED FEVER.—Question, Mr. Lupton ; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 471

ADMINISTRATION OF THE VACCINATION ACT.—Question, Mr. Lupton ; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 472

NEW YORK UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury) ; Answer, Mr. J. Burns 472

RAILWAYS DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Ferens (Hull, E.) ; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon) 473

GERMAN IMPORT RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Remnant ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 474

COLONIAL NAVIGATION CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. E. Cecil (Aston Manor) ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 474

SURREY SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC MEETING.—Question, Mr. Markham (Surrey, Chertsey) ; Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, W.) 475

LANCASTER AND THE EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. Ashley ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 476

LANCASTER NEW COUNCIL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Ashley ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 476

NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS—TEACHERS SALARIES.—Question, Lord R. Cecil ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 476

EMPIRE DAY IN THE SCHOOL.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.) Sir H. Vincent ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 476

GRANT FOR AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 476

CLERKS TO MAGISTRATES AND ASSIZE PROSECUTION.—Question, Mr. Henry (Shropshire, Wellington) ; Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir J. Walton, Leeds, S.) 476

ILLEGAL TRAWLING OFF THE SCOTTISH COAST.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty), Mr. S. Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R.), Mr. A. Williamson (Elgin and Nairn), Mr. Morton (Sutherland) , Answer, Mr. Sinclair 477

MELLON UDRIGLE BOAT SLIP.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 479

AIGUISH CROFTER SETTLEMENT.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 479

BALLINTORE HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 479

PORTMAHOMACK HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 480

MINE WATER AND RIVER GIRVAN.—Question, Mr. Beale (Ayrshire, S;) ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 480

SCOTTISH RIPARIAN RIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Menzies (Lanarkshire, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 480

Mar. 18.] *Page*

DR. DUNCAN'S DISMISSAL.—Question, Mr. C. Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 481

NORWEGIAN TRAWLERS AND THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Sutherland (Elgin Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 481

SCOTTISH MEDICAL OFFICERS OF POOR HOUSES.—Question, Mr. C. Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 482

FISHMONGER'S COMPANY AND SCOTTISH FISHERY REGULATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 482

GENERAL AID GRANT.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. Sinclair 483

DETECTION OF POACHING TRAWLERS.—Question, Mr. C. Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 484

BRITISH CAPITAL IN ILLEGAL TRAWLERS.—Question, Mr. C. Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 484

FISHERIES PROTECTION.—Questions, Mr. Morton; Answers, Mr. Sinclair .. 484

JURY CHALLENGING AT ROSCOMMON ASSIZES.—Question, Mr. S. MacNeill (Donegal, S.), Mr. Haydon (Roscommon, S.), Mr. Lonsdale; Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange) 485

THE PARLIAMENTARY DINNER HOUR.—Question, Mr. P. Pease; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 468

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—Questions, Mr. A. Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 486

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND FAIR WAGE CLAUSE.—Question, Mr. J. R. Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 487

STANDING ORDERS.—Question, Lord R. Cecil; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 487

SCOTLAND'S SHARE OF THE UNEMPLOYED GRANT.—Questions, Mr. Morton; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 488

Education Acts Amendment Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 86.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 86.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Friday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 108] 489

NEW BILLS

Saturday Closing of Public Houses Bill—"To provide for the Closing of Public Houses on Saturdays," presented by Mr. Bottomley; to be read a second time upon Monday, 1st April, and to be printed. [Bill 109] .. 489

Mar. 18.] *Page*

Financial and Commercial Gambling Bill—"To prohibit dealings in options, marginal investments, futures, lottery bonds, 'bulls,' 'bears,' and other gambling transactions," presented by Mr. Bottomley; to be read a second time upon Monday, 1st April, and to be printed. [Bill 110] 489

Youthful Offenders Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Youthful Offenders; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Wedgwood; supported by Mr. Beck, Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Mallet, and Mr. Henry Joseph Wilson; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 111] 489

Trawlers' Regulation Bill.—"To provide for the suppression of illegal fishing by trawl vessels," presented by Mr. Morton; supported by Mr. Weir and Mr. Smeaton; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 26th March, and to be printed. [Bill 112] 489

Parliamentary Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill.—"To extend the Hours of Polling at Parliamentary Elections," presented by Mr. Pickersgill; supported by Mr. Cooper, Sir Edwin Cornwall, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Lea, Mr. Bertram Straus, Mr. Wiles, and Mr. Philip Wilson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 113] 489

London Municipal Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill.—"To extend the Hours of Polling at the election of members of the London County Council and of the Metropolitan Borough Councils," presented by Mr. Dickinson; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 114] 489

Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment Bill—"To amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in respect of Laundries," presented by Mr. Cameron Corbett; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 115] 490

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 490
Mr. Ashley (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) 501
Earl Percy (*Kensington, S.*) 506
Mr. Mackarness (*Berkshire, Newbury*) 512
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 517
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 519
Mr. Lyttelton (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) 526
The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.*) 533
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 547
Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 552
Mr. Smeaton (*Stirlingshire*) 553
Mr. Stanley Wilson (*Yorks, E.R., Holderness*) 557
Mr. A. Williamson (*Elgin and Nairn*) 560
Sir Arthur Bignold (*Wick Burghs*) 564
Mr.Crombie (*Kincardineshire*) 566

Mar. 18.] Page

Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs) 567
Mr. Sutherland (Elgin Burghs) 567
Mr. Morton (Sutherland) 571
Mr. Cathcart Wason 574
The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 575
Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) 577
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 578
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 579
Mr. Maclean (Bath) 580

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

Probation of Offenders Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

Army Annual Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Haldane 582

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 584
Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham) 588
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 589
Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 589
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 592

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Haldane 593
Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood) 596

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Wednesday.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House, without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 597

Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 597

Borax Consolidated Bill [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill [H.L.]: Staveley Coal and Iron Company Bill [H.L.]; Devonport Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H L.] —Reported, with Amendments 597

Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 597

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 597

Tees Conservancy Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported with Amendments 597

Oxford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 597

Medway Lower Navigation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 597

Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Presented (pursuant to leave given this day). Read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 597

Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.].

Electric Supply Corporation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].

The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Onslow) 597

Moved, 'That the Bills be not further proceeded with, that standing Order No. 86 be dispensed with, and that leave be given to the promoters of the said Bills to present a consolidated Bill in lieu thereof."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order)

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Lord Ashbourne 598

Mar. 19.] Page

The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 598

Amendment moved, "That the last clause be omitted."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill reported, with an Amendment to the House.

Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Ordered that all petitions presented with respect to the Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.], and the Electric Supply Corporation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.], be deemed to have been presented in respect of the said Bill 599

Galwey's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence taken before this House, together with the proceedings and the documents deposited in the case; Ordered to be communicated, with a request that they may be returned 599

United Methodist Church Bill [H.L.]; City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.].—Reports from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 599

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES.—No. 8 (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the boundary between the Gold Coast and the French Soudan, 19th July, 1906.

No. 10 (1907).—International agreement respecting the unification of the pharmacopœial formulas for patent drugs; signed at Brussels, 29th November, 1906 599

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland, for the year 1906.

Memorandum on the teaching of English in Scottish primary Schools.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 599

ST. LUCIA.—Amended prison rule and diet scales.—Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 600

ORDER IN DEBATE.

Lord Burghclere 600

Moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Standing Orders of the House which relate to Order in debate, and to Report what alterations, if any, are desirable in those Standing Orders."—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

The Earl of Onslow 608
The Marquess of Lansdowne 614
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 661
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 620

On Question, Motion agreed to and ordered accordingly.

PEERS AND THE OATH.

Lord Burghclere 620
The Earl of Crewe 620

BRITISH INDIANS AND THE COLONIES.

Lord Ampthill 621
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 627
The Marquess of Lansdowne 630
Lord Reay 634

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, Etc.) Bill.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.

Commons' Message considered (according to order): Moved, That this House do concur in the following resolution communicated by the Commons, viz., "That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons" [The Earl Carrington]; agreed to; and a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith 634

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 635

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 63 has been complied with, viz.:—London United Tramways Bill; London Electric Supply Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 635

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill.—As amended, considered, to be read the third time .. 635

London County Council (Tramways and Improvement) Bill.—Read a second time and committed 635

Mar. 19.] Page

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

"That, in the case of the South Wales Mineral Railway Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, on the condition that Clauses 26 to 35, inclusive, are struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

"That, in the case of the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with : —That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Burnley Corporation, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill, Petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the Petition of the 'Westminster City Council,' against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought not to be dispensed with."

First Four Resolutions agreed to.

Report to lie upon the Table 635

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill.—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.—(*Mr. Deputy Chairman.*) 636

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands for and completion of tramways and other works authorised by the West Riding Tramways Act, 1904." (West Riding Tramways Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Manchester Ship Canal Company to acquire lands and to confer upon that Company further powers in relation to the supply of water in their canal ; and for other purposes." (Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make provision with reference to the substitution of a memorandum and articles of association for the existing constitution and regulations of the Royal Insurance Company, and for extending its objects ; and to repeal, in part, The Royal Insurance Company's Act, 1891 ; and for other purposes." (Royal Insurance Company Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Newquay and District Water Company; to extend their limits for the supply of water; to authorise the construction of works and the raising of money; and for other purposes." (Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the West Yorkshire Tramways Company, for widening and altering roads, and acquiring lands and for other purposes." (West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Company, for widening and altering roads, and acquiring lands; and for other purposes." (Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords].) 636

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and Metropolitan Water Board Various Powers) Bill.—That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution, "That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons." .. 637

West Riding Tramways Bill [Lords]; Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [Lords]; Royal Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Folkestone Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 637

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Aberaman; Bagillt; Bedford; Blaennant; Bow Hill; Bretby; British Rhondda; Burnbank; Cadley Hill; Carluke; Cossall; Dechmont; Featherstone Main; Gilbertfield; Gresley; Gwendraeth; Halls; Harthill and Benhar; Heanor; Highley and Kintet; Hodroyd; Kelty; Kinglassie; Kippax; Llanerch; Mirfield! Nadine and Company; New Cwmmawa; Oakwell; Point of Ayr; Pontheury; Ripley; Rosebank; Tipton; and, West Wemyss Collieries; to lie upon the Table 638

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRADE).—Petition from Abergavenny, for suppression; to lie upon the Table.. 638

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions against: From Campbeltown; and, Duthil and Rothiemurchus; to lie upon the Table .. 638

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 638

HOME WORK REGULATION BILL.—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 638

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).—Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division for Scotland for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 638

Mar. 19.] *Page*

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Teaching of English in Scottish Primary Schools [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 638

ST. LUCIA.—Copy presented, of Amended Prison Rule and Diet Scales [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 638

TREATY SERIES (NO. 8, 1907).—Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the Boundary between the Gold Coast and the French Soudan, 19th July, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 639

Army (Annual) Bill.—Copy presented, of Memorandum relative thereto [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 639

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Public Records, High Court of Justice (King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer), Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the late Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act] 639

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

LAND COMMISSION DEPARTMENT CLERICAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Birrell 639

BANKRUPTCY LAW.—Question, Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Sir J. Walton 641

REFUSAL OF TRADING LICENCES TO BRITISH INDIAN SHOPKEEPERS IN NATAL.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford); Answer, Mr. Morley .. 641

THE INDIAN BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs); Answer, Mr. Morley 642

DELAY IN INSTALLATION OF PRIVATE TELEPHONES.—Question, Mr. Carr Gomm (Southwark, Rotherhithe); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 642

PURCHASE OF MISS GRIFFITH'S GRAZING LANDS.—Question, Mr. K. O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 643

CLAIMS OF EVICTED TENANTS ON ESTATE OF MR. ROTHERAM, OF COUNTY MEATH.—Question, Mr. Patrick White (Meath, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 643

MACEDONIAN BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, Sir E. Grey 643

DR. HAFFKINE AND HIS PROPHYLACIC AGAINST PLAGUE.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. Morley 644

TELEPHONE FACILITIES FOR MULLINGAR.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Sidney Buxton 644

Page

POOR LAW EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 645

ACCOUNTS OF METROPOLITAN BOROUGHS.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. John Burns 645

UGANDA RAILWAY ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Runciman 645

NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY IN BOARD OF WORKS OFFICE, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's Co., Ossory); Answer, Mr. Runciman 646

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE FOR NEWTOWNCASHEL.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 646

INTRODUCTION OF THE METRIC SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Haslam (Monmouth, Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Kearley 647

ROCKET APPARATUS ON BRITISH SHIPS.—Question, Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 647

OVERCROWDING ON THE BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Mr. Kearley 648

ENNIS STATE INEBRIATES REFORMATORY.—Question, Mr. Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 648

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF J. MULOOLY.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 649

SALE OF FARM ON DUC DE STACPOOL'S ESTATE—COMPENSATION TO PREVIOUS TENANT.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 649

EVICTION NOTICES IN THE KELLS RURAL DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. Patrick White; Answer, Mr. Birrell 650

STATUS OF BANDMASTERS IN VOLUNTEER REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Haldane 650

ARMY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Clavell Salter (Hampshire, Basingstoke); Answer, Mr. Haldane 650

BATTERY SERGEANT-MAJORS AND QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANTS AFFECTED BY ARMY ORDER OF MARCH 11TH.—Question, Mr. Clavell Salter; Answer, Mr. Haldane 651

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

RESERVE OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION FOR THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hants, Fareham), The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 651

SIMONSTOWN WARDERS—ADULTERATED CANVAS.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr, E. Robertson 652

H.M.S. "BARFLEUR."—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. E. Robertson .. 652

Mar. 19.] *Page*

REDISTRIBUTION OF BATTLE SHIPS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. E. Robertson 653

PENSIONER BRADLEY, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.—Question, Mr. Bransdon (Portsmouth); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 653

COMILLA RIOTS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 653

BENGAL EXCISE BILL.—Question, Mr. H. Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Morley 654

CHINA AND THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.—Question, Mr. Ellis (Nottingham, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. Morley 654

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 655

TRINIDAD CUSTOMS TARIFF.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N. W.) 655

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. S. Wilson (Yorks, E. R. Holderness); Answer, Mr. Churchill 656

TREATMENT OF BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Churchill 656

THE HAUSA LINES, WEST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Keir-Hardie; Answer, Mr. Churchill 656

SHANGHAI OUTRAGES.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick 657

TURCO-PERSIAN FRONTIER DELIMITATION.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W. R., Ripon); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 657

BRITISH AND UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 658

INCOME-TAX.—Question, Mr. Barrie; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 658

PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD SILVER PLATING WORKS.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 659

FINES AND FEES IN METROPOLITAN POLICE COURTS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 659

CHANNEL ISLANDS SHIPPING LAWS.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 660

EAST STAINCLIFFE LICENSING JUSTICES.—Question, Mr. Clough (Yorks, W. R., Skipton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 660

Mar. 19.] *Page*

METROPOLITAN ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 661

CALVES FOR THE NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer; Mr. John Burns 661

WASHBURN VALLEY AFFORESTATION SCHEME.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady and Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answers, Mr. John Burns 661

NEW YORK UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn); Answer, Mr. John Burns 665

PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL TRAWLING.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorks, E. R., Holderness); Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 665

CONTINENTAL HARBOURS FOR CROSS-CHANNEL TRAFFIC.—Question, Mr. Lynch; Answer, Mr. Kearley 666

ELLIOT JUNCTION RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central); Answer, Mr. Kearley 666

THORNLEY POSTMAN'S HOURS OF DUTY.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 667

KENSINGTON GARDENS TREES.—Questions, Viscount Dalrymple (Wigtown) and Major Anstruther-Gray; Answers, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale).. 667

DUKE OF YORK STEPS FOOTWAY.—Question, Viscount Dalrymple; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 668

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson; Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 668

NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Clough; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 668

MILAN EXPOSITION AWARDS.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) .. 669

CLERKS TO SURVEYORS OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, Mr. Runciman 670

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray and Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answers, Mr. Runciman 670

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT—MR. GARNETT OF CLITHEROE AND HIS TENANTS. —Question, Mr. Clough; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.).. 671

CLIFTON-ON-BOWMONT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.—Question, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 672

MORAY FIRTH TRAWLERS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 673

SCOTTISH RIPARIAN RIGHTS.—Question, Sir J. Jardine; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 673

Mar. 19.] *Page*

Jury Challenging at Roscommon Assizes.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) 674

Vandeleur Estate Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Halpin; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 674

Crime in Cavan and Sussex.—Questions, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) and Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 675

Simpson Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 676

Ensor Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Birrell 676

La Touche Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Birrell 676

Clements Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Birrell 67

Listowel Estate, North Kerry, Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 677

Licensing (Ireland) Act, 1902.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 677

Ballylongford Untenanted Lands.—Question, Mr. Flavin; Answer, Mr. Birrell 678

Housing Loans for Irish Urban Councils.—Question, Mr. Barrie; Answer, Mr. Runciman 678

Unpaid Board of Works Loan.—Question, Mr. Halpin; Answer, Mr. Runciman 678

Irish Post Office Savings Bank Headquarters.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 679

Irish Coercion Act.—Questions, Mr. Lambton (Durham, S.E.) and Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 679

Notices of Motions.—Question, Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.); Answer, Mr. Speaker 680

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Pike Pease; and had appointed in substitution: Viscount Castlereagh.

Sir Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Railways (Contracts) Bill; Mr. Lambton, Sir William Holland, Mr. Abel Smith, Viscount Helmsley, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Beale, Mr. Mond, Mr. Clement Edwards, Mr. Myer, Mr. Brunner, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Akers-Douglas, Mr. John Williams, Mr. Menzies, and Mr. Wedgwood.

Report to lie upon the Table 681

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 87.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 87.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Friday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 116] 682

NEW BILLS.

Rights of Way (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Rights of Way in Scotland," presented by Mr. Gulland; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 117] 682

Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill.—"To permit the release on Probation of Offenders in certain cases, and for other matters incidental thereto," presented by Mr. Secretary Gladstone; supported by Mr. Herbert Samuel; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 118] 682

Rating Appeals (Costs) Bill.—"To enable the councils of counties and county boroughs to contribute to certain Costs of Appeals against Poor Rates," presented by Mr. Barnard; supported by Mr. Godfrey Baring, Mr. Bethell, Mr. Bertram, Colonel Carlile, Viscount Helmsley, Mr. Abel Smith, and Mr. Micklem; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 119] 683

Small Holdings (No. 2) Bill.—"To amend the Small Holdings Act, 1892," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings; supported by Colonel Long, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. William Nicholson, and Mr. Arthur Stanley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 27th March, and to be printed. [Bill 120] 683

Patents and Designs Bill.

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 683

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to Patents and Designs."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Kearley.

Mar. 19.] *Page*

Patents and Designs Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Patents and Designs," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 121.]

SMALL LANDHOLDERS IN SCOTLAND.

The Secretary for Scotland (*Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire*) 687

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That leave be given to bring in a Bill to encourage the formation of Small Agricultural Holdings in Scotland, and to amend the Law relating to the tenure of such Holdings (including Crofters' Holdings); to establish Agricultural Commissioners for Scotland; and for other purposes connected therewith."—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 703
Mr. John Dewar (*Inverness*) 716
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 719
Mr. Cathcart Wason (*Orkney and Shetland*) 725
Mr. Barnes (*Glasgow, Blackfriars*) 727
Mr. Cochrane (*Ayrshire, N.*) 731
The Lord Advocate (*Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs*) 737
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin, S.*) 740
Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) 742
Viscount Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 743

Question put and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair and the Lord Advocate.

Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill.—" To encourage the formation of Small Agricultural Holdings in Scotland, and to amend the Law relating to the tenure of such Holdings (including Crofters' Holdings); to establish Agricultural Commissioners for Scotland; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 122.]

Great Western, London and North Western and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill [BY ORDER].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) 744
Mr. Brace (*Glamorganshire, S.*) 746

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word ' now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words ' upon this day six months.' "—(*Mr. Morton.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Baldwin (*Worcestershire, Bewdley*) 750
Mr. Guest (*Cardiff District*) 751
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (*Mr. Kearley, Devonport*) 753
Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) 755

Mar. 19.] *Page*

Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

London and North Western Railway Bill. [By Order].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Trevelyan (*Yorkshire, W.R., Elland*) 756
Mr. Stuart Samuel (*Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel*) 760

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the Question, and add the words, 'That no Bill can be satisfactory to this House which confers increased powers on a railway company created by Act of Parliament which has subscribed out of its corporate funds to a Party organisation."—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 751
Mr. Clement Edwards (*Denbigh District*) 763
Mr. F. E. Smith (*Liverpool, Walton*) 765
The President of the Board of Trade (*Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs*) 768
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin, S.*) 772
Sir J. Brunner (*Cheshire, Northwich*) 773
Mr. J. W. Wilson (*Worcestershire, N.*) 774

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Sir J. Brunner.*)

Mr. Lloyd-George 775
Mr. Perks (*Lincolnshire, Louth*) 775

Question, "That the debate be now adjourned," put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

Question put.

Mar. 20.] *Page*

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 250 ; Noes 51.

Bill reported, without Amendment ; to be read the third time to-morrow .. 776

Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill..—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the debate be now adjourned." —(*Mr. Stanley Wilson.*)

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Motion for the Adjournment of the debate lapsed without Question put.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday 779

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Barnsley, Wombwell, and Wath Tramways Bill [H.L.].—The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. The order of Thursday last referring the Examiners Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee discharged. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with 781

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited Bill [H.L.] ; Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed .. 781

United Methodist Church Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed 781

City of London Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed : The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 781

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Burnley Corporation Bill, and the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill ought to be dispensed with, read and agreed to 781

Byrne's Divorce Bill[H.L.].—Amendment reported (according to order) and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 781

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS. Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended ; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, also the time for depositing Documents relating to any Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Easter be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.—Ordered,

That no private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 18th day of June next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday the 2nd day of May next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 18th day of June next.

That when a Bill shall have passed the House with Amendments these orders shall not apply to any new Bill sent up from the House of Commons which the Chairman of Committees shall report to the House is substantially the same as the Bill so amended.

That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday the 2nd day of May next, unless such Private Bill shall have been approved by the High Court of Justice; nor any petition for a Private Bill approved by the High Court of Justice after Tuesday the 7th day of May next.

That this House will not receive any report from the Judges upon petitions presented to this House for Private Bills after Tuesday the 7th day of May next.

Ordered, That the said orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall. (No. 21)... 781

Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.].

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^{a}.—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Lord Avebury 782
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Onslow*) 783

On Question, Bill read 2^{a} and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Army (Annual) Bill.—Memorandum 783

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Tables showing the extent in statute acres and the produce of the crops and numbers of live stock, for the year 1906.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 783

Mar. 20.] Page

PUBLIC RECORDS (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE).—Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents belonging to the late Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, and the succeeding King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office 783

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Licence granted by His Majesty to Dorothy Pearson, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, London, N. 784

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (BOROUGH OF JARROW).—Order made by the borough council of Jarrow, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough 784

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND).—Order made by the Council of the County of Northumberland altering certain Polling Districts in the Tyneside and Wansbeck Parliamentary Divisions.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 784

Judicature Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read, and discharged 784

HOME RULE.

The Earl of Denbigh 784
The Lord President of the Council (The Earl of Crewe) 795
The Marquess of Londonderry 800
The Lord Chancellor (Lord Loreburn) 804
The Marquess of Lansdowne 810

The Licensing Bill.

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 816
The Earl of Crewe 817

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered to-morrow in order to its being suspended for that day's Sitting.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven of the Clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, AND THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the the third time 818

Mar. 20.] *Page*

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill.—Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 818

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP) 1.—Mr. D. A. THOMAS reported from the Committee on Group 1 of the Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties the Committee had adjourned until Wednesday, the 17th April at half-past Eleven o'clock. Report to lie upon the Table 819

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Company of Proprietors of the Lower Navigation of the River Medway; and for other purposes." [Medway Lower Navigation Bill [Lords].

Galwey's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—That they communicate Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken upon the Second Reading of Galwey's Divorce Bill, together with the documents deposited in the case, as desired by this House, with a request that the same may be returned 819

Medway Lower Navigation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 819

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Alfreton; Cadzow; Cresswell; Cwmboan; Denby Grange; Derbyshire; Derbyshire Silkstone; East Huntslet; Garforth; Glasswell; Glencraig; Hepthorne Lane; Hickleton Main; Holbrook; Kenmuir; Lane Head; Leeds; Newmarket Haig Moor; Old Avenue; Park Hill; Park House; Pilsley; Rothwell; Williamthorpe; Woodside; and, Woodthorpe; to lie upon the Table .. 819

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1894.—Petition from Glasgow, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 819

RAILWAYS.—Petition from Worthing, for purchase by the State; to lie upon the Table 819

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.—Seven Petitions from Artists, Art Teachers, Students, and others, resident in Ireland against removal of academic functions; to lie upon the Table 819

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Bootle; Brighton; Exeter; Halifax (two); London, York, and other places; Nottingham; Reigate; Rechester; Southampton (two); Sunderland; Town and County Councils and others; and, West Bromwich; to lie upon the Table 820

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from Dundee in favour; to lie upon the Table 820

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Tables showing the extent in statute acres and the produce of the Crops and numbers of Live Stock for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 820

Mar. 20.] *Page*

Polling Districts (County of Northumberland).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Northumberland altering certain Polling Districts in the Tyneside and Wansbeck Parliamentary Divisions of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 820

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Jarrow, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 820

Penal Servitude Acts (Conditional Licence).—Copy presented, of Licence granted to Dorothy Pearson, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, London, N. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 820

Army (Military Works).—Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 820

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1887 (Oxford).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of Oriel College, Oxtord, on the 11th October 1906 (and sealed on the 29th November 1906) amending Statute VI., Clause 5, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 88.] 821

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 1st December 1906 (and sealed on the 7th December 1906), amending Statute III., Clause II., of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 89.] 821

Congestion in Ireland (Royal Commission).—Copy presented, of Third Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Minutes of Evidence taken in London, 3rd to 20th November 1906 and Documents relating thereto) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 821

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.—Copy presented, of Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 821

Board of Education.—Copy presented of Statement showing the Numbers and Salaries of Teachers in Voluntary Schools in England and Wales for year ended 31st July 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 821

Metropolitan Boroughs (Non-Payment of Rates).—Address for "Return showing, for the year 1906, (1) the number of persons summoned in each Metropolitan Borough for Non-payment of Rates; (2) the numberof distraint warrants issued in each Borough; (3) the number ofcommittals in each Borough in default of Payment of Rates."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Ship Inn, Pett.—Question, Mr. Gibb (Middlesex, Harrow); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 822

Mar. 20.] *Page*

POSSECKSTOWN EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. P. White (Meath, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 822

GREENWICH HOSPITAL FUNDS.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. E. Robertson 823

MOTOR OMNIBUS BREAKDOWNS.—Question, Mr. Burnyeat (Whitehaven); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 824

LISNAGEA EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 824

DRAINAGE OF THE BARROW.—Question, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix); Answer, Mr. Birrell 824

POLICE PROTECTION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. W. Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 826

AGRARIAN OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Long; Answer, Mr. Birrell 826

BOYCOTTING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. W. Long; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 827

NAIROBI RAILWAY, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Churchill 829

BOY CLERKS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Parker (Halifax); Answer, Mr. Runciman 830

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Meehan; Answer, Mr. Runciman 830

CLERKS IN BOARD OF WORKS, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Runciman .. .. — 831

NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY.—Question, Sir P. Muntz (Warwickshire, Tamworth); Answer, Mr. Runciman 832

MARKET PRICES OF MALTING BARLEY.—Question, Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, Sir E. Strachey 833

CASHEL POSTMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 833

TELEPHONES IN COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. A. Roche (Cork); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 834

COTTON GAMBLES.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 834

TONNAGE CLAUSES IN HARBOUR AND PORT BILLS.—Question, Sir B. Gurdon (Norfolk, N.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 835

LAND ALLOTMENTS—COUNCIL APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Billson (Staffordshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 836

LONDON PAROCHIAL INFIRMARIES AND PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Question, Mr. W. Pearce (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 836

Mar. 20.]

Page

VACCINATION.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, Mr. John Burns 836

COST OF PAUPERISM.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam (Monmouth Boroughs); Answer, Mr. John Burns 837

BUTE COASTGUARD.—Question, Mr. Lamont (Buteshire); Answer, Mr. E. Robertson 837

INDIAN MILITARY SERVICE FAMILY PENSION FUND.—Question, Sir S. King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley 838

ENLISTMENT IN THE ARMY RESERVES.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Haldane 838

VOLUNTEER ADJUTANTS.—Question, Mr. Partington (Derbyshire, High Peak); Answer, Mr. Haldane 839

FLOGGING IN THE ARMY.—Question, Mr. Lehmann (Leicestershire, Market Harborough); Answer, Mr. Haldane 839

JUDICIAL APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 839

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

THE VOLUNTEER AND THE NEW ARMY SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 840

PENSIONERS AND CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.—Questions, Mr. Seddon (Lancashire, Newton); and Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, Mr. Haldane 840

CAMP ALLOWANCES.—Questions, Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.), and Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answers, Mr. Haldane 841

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—Question, Mr. Myer; Answer, Mr. Haldane 842

TERRITORIAL FORCES BILL.—Question, Sir H. Vincent; Answer, Mr. Haldane 842

ENGINEER'S SERVICE—CIVIL STAFF.—Question, Mr. C. H. Corbett (Sussex, East Grinstead); Answer, Mr. Haldane 843

PRESS LAWS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, W.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 843

CHAMPARAM OUTRAGE.—Questions, Mr. Rees and Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answers, Mr. Hobhouse.. 843

UGANDA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Wedgewood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 844

CANADA AND THE NAVIGATION CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. E. Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, Mr. Churchill 845

Mar. 20.] *Page*

RAILWAYS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.—Question, Mr. Lyell (Dorsetshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 845

GOVERNORS AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire) and Mr. Menzies (Lanarkshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 845

NEW CALEDONIA.—Questions, Sir H. Vincent and Sir G. Parker (Gravesend); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 846

THE HAGUE CENFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. 848

RUSSIAN TEA DUTY.—Questions, Mr. Rees and Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Runciman 848

RUSSIAN TROOPS AT TEHERAN—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorks, W.R., Ripon); Answer, Mr. Runciman 849

MACEDONIAN BUDGET—CHARGES FOR TURKISH TROOPS.—Questions, Mr. Lynch; Answers, Mr. Runciman 849

COMMERCIAL AGENT IN THE UNITED STATES.—Questions, Mr. S. Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall), and Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answers, Mr. Runciman 849

THE OPIUM TRAFFI .—Questions, Mr. Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), and Mr. A. Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth); Answers, Mr. Runciman 850

COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉS.—Question, Mr. S. Roberts; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. 851

WHISKY PRODUCTION.—Questions, Mr. Kilbride and Mr. Lea; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 851

STOCK TRANSFER FEES.—Question, Mr. G. H. Faber (Boston); Answer, Mr. Asquith 851

DIVIDENDS ON MINE EARNINGS.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Asquith 852

NAMES OF LICENSED HOUSES.—Question, Mr. Fiennes (Oxfordshire, Banbury); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 852

RATE SUMMONSES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 853

INSPECTION OF LAUNDRIES.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 853

COMPLAINTS AGAINST RAILWAY COMPANIES.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 853

CONVEYANCE AT OWNER'S RISK.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 854

BUREAU FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Sir E. Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 854

Mar. 20.] Page

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.—Question, Mr. Lyell (Dorsetshire, E.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 855

CARNARVON AND STIRLING CASTLES.—Question, Sir F. Banbury (City of London); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) 855

WELSH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.—Question, Sir F. Banbury; Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) 856

GATESHEAD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. J. W. Taylor (Durham, Chester-le-Street); Answer, Mr. Lough 856

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. S. Roberts; Answer, Mr. Lough 857

LLANYCHAN SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Mr. Lough 857

TRAINING COLLEGES FOR TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Toulmin (Bury, Lancashire); Answer, Mr. Lough 857

POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES ON LICENCED PREMISES.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 858

SOUTH AFRICAN MAILS.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. 858

HONG-KONG MAILS.—Questions, Mr. Myer and Mr .H. Cox; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 859

EMPLOYER AND APPRENTICE LAWS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 860

SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERIES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 860

ACHINTEE RIVER—BRIDGE FOR CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 861

INSPECTORS OF SCOTTISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Smeaton; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 861

IRISH LABOURERS' AND UNTENANTED LANDS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 862

LABOURERS' COTTAGE SITES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 863

SOLDIERS AND CIVIL PROCESS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 863

MULLINGAR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE LABOURERS' ACT.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 863

INSPECTORS OF THE IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 864

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 864

REPAIR OF IRISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 865

POLICE PROTECTION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Birrell 865

CASE OF MARTIN HAWES.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 866

CLOGHROE DYNAMITE OUTRAGE.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell 866

MAJOR ARMSTRONG'S BANAGHER ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, Mr. Birrell 866

BUTSON ESTATE, CLONFORT.—Question, Mr. J. Roche; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 867

GRANTS FOR NEW IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 867

GART BOARD OF GUARDIANS—SURCHARGE.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell.. 867

MINKILL EVICTED TENANTS, LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 868

EARL OF LEITRIM'S FALCARRAGH PROPERTY.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 868

IRISH TEACHERS' RESIDENCE.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 869

TUBBERCURRY POTATO CROP.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 869

IRISH HALL-MARK.—Question, Sir H. Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Birrell 869

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—THEFT OF MONEY AT COROFIN, CLARE.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Birrell 870

PLUNKETSTOWN EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Kilbride; Answer, Mr. Birrell 871

COUNTY CORK EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 871

LONGWORTH ESTATE, COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. J. Roche; Answer, Mr. Birrell 872

IRISH EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 872

Mar. 20.] Page

DOOHOMA SCHOOL TEACHER'S DISMISSAL.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 872

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS AT CARRICK-ON-SUIR.—Questions, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. W. Redmond; Answer, Mr. Runciman 873

TELEPHONES IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 874

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—Question, Mr. W. Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 874

PASSIVE RESISTERS AS MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 875

ARMY ANNUAL BILL—MEMORANDUM.—Questions, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.), Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington); Answer, Mr. Haldane 876

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Speaker 875

STANDING COMMITTEE (CHAIRMAN'S PANEL).—Mr. STUART-WORTLEY reported from the Chairman's Panel; That they had appointed Sir David Brynmor Jones to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in the place of Mr. Stuart-Wortley 878

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

Trusts Bill.—"To codify the Law relating to private Trusts and Trustees," presented by Mr. Rendall; supported by Mr. Cave, Mr. Micklem, Mr. Stewart-Smith, and Mr. Bertram; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 30th April, and to be printed. [Bill 123.] 878

Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity Bill.—"To confirm a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the charity consisting of the Particular or Calvinistic Baptist Chapel in South Parade, in the city of Leeds," presented by Mr. Trevelyan; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 124.] 878

Kingswood (Whitfield Tabernacle Schoolroom, etc.) Charity Bill.—"To confirm a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the charity consisting of the Whitfield Tabernacle, Schoolroom, and trust property in the parish of Kingswood, in the county of Gloucester," presented by Mr. Trevelyan; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 125.] 879

Longton (Caroline Street Chapel) Charity Bill.—"To confirm a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the charity consisting of the Congregational Chapel in Caroline street, in the borough of Longton, in the county of Stafford," presented by Mr. Trevelyan; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 126.] 879

Mar. 20.] *Page*

Dogs (Injuries to Persons) Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Injuries to Persons by Dogs," presented by Mr. Dundas White ; supported by Mr. Crombie, Dr. Shipman, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir John Jardine, Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards, Mr. Arnold Herbert, and Mr. Molteno ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 127.] 879

Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools Bill.—" To promote Agricultural Education and nature study in Public Elementary Schools," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings, supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Rothschild, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Arkwright, and Mr. Carlile ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 128] 879

Ferries (Ireland) Bill.—" To confer on county councils in Ireland the power to etablish and maintain Ferries ; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Gwynn ; supported by Mr. Clancy, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. O'Malley ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 129] 879

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

The Secretary for Scotland (*Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire*) 880

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the laws relating to education in Scotland, and for other purposes connected therewith."—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 882

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair and the Lord Advocate.

Education (Scotland) Bill.—" To amend the laws relating to education in Scotland, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented accordingly, and read the first time, to be read a second time to-morrow and to be printed. [Bill 130.]

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND).

Mr. Cathcart Wason (*Orkney and Shetland*) 884

Motion made, and Question, " That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to the tenure of parochial medical officers in Scotland "—(*Mr. Cathcart Wason*)—put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Harmsworth, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Gulland, Sir Henry Craik, Viscount Dalrymple, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Younger, Mr. Cross and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.

Parochial Medical Officers (Scotland) Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to the tenure of office of Parochial Medical Officers in Scotland," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 24th April, and to be printed. [Bill 131.]

Mar. 20.] Page

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 889

Motion made, and Question proposed—

(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to—

(*a*) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidation Fund or Appropriation Bills; or

(*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders.

(2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect to other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes, and from the Member who opposes, the Motion, shall, without further debate, put the question thereon.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.) 896
Mr. Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 911
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 915
Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.) 921
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 922
Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire) 927
Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.) 928
Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.) 930
Lord Robert Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 933

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, further proceeding was postponed without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 4.

COMMITMENTS TO PRISON FOR DEBT.

Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.) 936
Mr. Maclean (Bath) 939

Motion made and Question proposed "That the present powers of committing to Prison for non-payment of a Debt ought to be restricted."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Sir William Bull (Hammersmith) 940
The Solicitor-General (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) 943

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That the present powers of committing to prison for non-payment of a debt ought to be restricted."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

RATING (LONDON).

Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) 948
Mr. Dickinson (St. Pancras, N.) 948

Motion m de and Question proposed, "That in the opinion of this House, the present inequality of the rates raised in the different parishes in London requires the early consideration of Parliament."—(*Mr. Crooks.*)

Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 952
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board (Dr. Macnamara, Camberwell, N.) 953
Mr. Straus (Tower Hamlets, Mile End) 958
Mr. W. Pearce (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) 960
Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.) 961
Mr. Stuart (Sunderland) 961
Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey) 962
Mr. Pickersgill 962
Mr. R. Pearce (Staffordshire, Leek) 963

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That, in the opinion of this House, the present inequality of the rates raised in the different parishes in London requires the early consideration of Parliament."—(*Mr. Crooks.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).—Postponed Proceeding on Question, "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to—(a) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (b) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders; (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect to other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman*)—resumed.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next. 963

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somerset, Wellington) 964

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 965
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 965
Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 966
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 967
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 967
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 968
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 968
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 970
Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 970

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 74 ; Noes, 263. (Division List No. 46.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Cave 973
Lord Balcarres 975
The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 975
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 976
The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 978
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 982
Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 984
Colonel R. Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 985
Sir J. Randles (Cumberland, Cockermouth) 986
Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) 987
Sir F. Banbury 988

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word, 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) 988

Motion made, and Question put, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

The House divided : Ayes, 62 ; Noes, 218. (Division List, No. 47.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) 991
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 992
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 995

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 216 ; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 48.)

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes, 214 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 49.)

Mr. ASQUITH claimed, "That the main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 210 ; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 50.)

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Army (Annual) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 1005

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress ; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham) 1005
Sir A. Acland-Hood 1006
Viscount Helmsley (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 1007
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 1007
Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 1008
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 1008
Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) 1009
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 1011
Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 1011
Sir F. Banbury 1012
Mr. Lane Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) 1013

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196, Noes, 55. (Division List No. 51.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Chairman do report progress ; and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 54 ; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 52.)

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 53.)

Mar. 20.] *Page*

Clause 2 :—

Mr. Claude Hay 1021

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 36, to leave out from the word 'the' to the word 'one,' in line 37, and insert the words 'thirtieth day of April.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 1022
Viscount Turnour 1022
Mr. William Rutherford 1023
Captain Craig 1024
Major Coates (Lewisham) 1024
Mr. Courthope 1024
Viscount Helmsley 1025
Viscount Turnour 1025
Mr. Carlile (Herts, St. Albans) 1026
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 1026

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 54.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 55.)

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question, 'That the clause stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question, 'That the clause stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 182; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 56.)

Question put accordingly..

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 57.)

Clause 3 :—

Mr. William Rutherford 1037

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question, 'That the clause stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question, 'That the clause stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 181 ; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 58.)

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 181 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 59.)

Clause 4 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Forster 1043

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Chairman do report progress ; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

Mr. Haldane 1044
Viscount Helmsley 1044
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) 1046
Mr. Stanley Wilson 1048
Sir A. Acland-Hood 1048
Mr. Lane Fox 1049

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place and claimed to move " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 182 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 60.)

Question put accordingly, " That the Chairman do report progress ; and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 45 ; Noes, 182. (Division List No. 61.)

Question again proposed, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. William Rutherford 1053
Viscount Turnour 1055
Mr. Haldane 1055
Mr. William Rutherford 1056

Question put, " That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee proceeded to a Division.

Mr. WHITELEY and Mr. JOSEPH PEASE were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but, no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Mar. 20.] Page

Mr. William Rutherford 1056
Mr. Haldane 1057

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

Mr. Ashley 1057

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 36, to leave out the word 'other,' and insert the word 'naval.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'other' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 1058
Mr. Ashley 1058
Lord Balcarres 1058
Mr. Haldane 1058
Viscount Turnour 1059
Lord Balcarres 1060
Mr. Haldane 1061
Mr. Ashley 1061
Mr. William Rutherford 1061
Captain Craig 1062

Question put, "That the word 'other' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided : Ayes, 171 ; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 62.)

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 175 ; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 63.)

Clause 7 :—

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 173 ; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 64.)

Clause 8 :—

Mr. Ashley 1069

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 6, to leave out the word 'meal' and insert the words 'meals.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'meal' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Haldane 1070
Mr. William Rutherford 1071
Mr. T. L. Corbett 1071
Viscount Valentia (Oxford) 1071
Viscount Turnour 1072

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The word "a" inserted before "meal."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

Viscount Helmsley 1072

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 173 ; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 65.)

Clause 9 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Viscount Turnour 1077
Lord Balcarres 1077
Mr. Cave 1078
Mr. Haldane 1078
Captain Craig 1079
Mr. Meysey-Thompson (Staffordshire, Handsworth) 1079
Viscount Turnour 1080
Mr. Carlile 1080
Mr. Haldane 1081

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 10 :—

Viscount Turnour 1081

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 16, to leave out sub-section (a)."—(*Viscount Turnour.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-section (a) stand part of the clause."

Mr. Ashley 1082
Mr. Haldane 1082
Lord Balcarres 1083
Mr. Cave 1083
Mr. Haldane 1084
Captain Craig 1084
Mr. Meysey-Thompson 1085
Viscount Helmsley 1085
Captain Craig 1085
Major Coates 1086
Lord R. Cecil 1087
Mr. Haldane 1087
Mr. Carlile 1087
Mr. Byles (Salford, N.) 1088

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 1088

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Mr. Haldane 1088
Mr. Forster 1088
Viscount Turnour 1089
Lord R. Cecil 1089

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 197; Noes, 37. (Division List No. 66.)

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 36; Noes, 205. (Division List No. 67.)

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question, 'That the words of the clause to the end of page 6, line 7, stand part of the clause,' be now put."

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Question, 'That the words of the clause to the end of page 6, line 7, stand part of the clause,' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 37. (Division List No. 68.)

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 211; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 69.)

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 6, line 7, after the word 'apply,' to insert the words 'Provided that nothing in this sub-section, or in any rules made thereunder, shall authorise flogging to be inflicted for any such offence.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Lord R. Cecil 1101

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

> "To leave out the word 'flogging,' and insert the words 'corporal punishment.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'flogging' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Page
Mr. Haldane .. 1103
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) .. 1103
Mr. Charles Craig .. 1103
Viscount Turnour .. 1104
Mr. William Rutherford .. 1104

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'flogging' to insert the words, 'or other corporal punishment.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) .. 1105

Question put, and agreed to.

Lord R. Cecil .. 1106

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words, 'or any imprisonment or detention more severe than it is under the law in force for the time being in any public prison in England subject to The Prison Act, 1877.'"—(*Lord Robert Cecil.*)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane .. 1107

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 44; Noes, 215. (Division List No. 70.)

Proposed words, as amended, there inserted.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question, 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 217; Noes, 45. (Division List No. 71.)

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 45. (Division List No. 72.)

Sir F. Banbury .. 1115

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Sir F. Banbury.*)

Mar. 20.] *Page*

Mr. Haldane 1115
Lord Balcarres 1116
Mr. Hunt (*Shropshire, Ludlow*) 1117
Mr. Stanley Wilson 1117
Mr. Samuel Roberts 1117
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1117
Mr. Forster 1119

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 230 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 73.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Chairman do report progress ; and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 48 ; Noes, 230. (Division List No. 74.)

Mr. Ashley 1125

New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to Desertion, Fraudulent Enlistment, and Absence without Leave)—(*Mr. Ashley*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1125
Sir F. Banbury 1126
Mr. Cave 1127
Sir Gilbert Parker 1127
Mr. Lane-Fox 1128
Lord R. Cecil 1128
Mr. Courthope 1129

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 232 ; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 75.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 50 ; Noes, 240. (Division List No. 76.)

Mr. Ashley 1135

New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to Fraudulent Enlistment)—(*Mr. Ashley*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Page
Mr. Haldane 1135
Viscount Turnour 1136
Sir F. Banbury 1136

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 244 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 77.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 57 ; Noes, 252. (Division List No. 78.)

Mr. Ashley 1143

New Clause (Amendment of Section 97, Army Act, as to indentured labourers)—(*Mr. Ashley*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1144
Viscount Helmsley 1144
Sir F. Banbury 1145
Mr. Claude Hay 1146

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 57 ; Noes, 261. (Division List No. 79.)

Mr. Courthope 1149

New Clause (Repeal of Section 187 of Army Act)—(*Mr. Courthope*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1150
Sir F. Banbury 1150
Mr. Claude Hay 1152

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 54 ; Noes, 262. (Division List No. 80.)

Captain Craig 1155

New clause (Additional Penalty on interference with recruiting)—(*Captain Craig*)—brought up and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time.

Mr. T. L. Corbett 1156
Mr. James Campbell 1156
Mr. J. MacVeagh 1158

Mr. Buchanan rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 272 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 81.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 64 ; Noes, 288. (Division List No. 82.)

Mr. T. L. Corbett 1165

New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to right of accused to have evidence in writing)—brought up and read the first time.—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1166

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 70 ; Noes, 304. (Division List No. 83.)

Mr. William Rutherford 1169

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1170

Proposed new clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 1171

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1173
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1175
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 1178

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 79 ; Noes, 321. (Division List No. 84.)

Mr. William Rutherford 1181

New Clause (Amendment of Section 42 as to redress of wrongs complained of by officer)—(*Mr. W. Rutherford*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1182

Page

Mr. William Rutherford 1183

Leave to withdraw the clause refused.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 68 ; Noes, 306. (Division List No. 85.)

Mr. William Rutherford 1187

New Clause (Addition to Part II. of Army Act as to age of enlistment)—(*Mr William Rutherford*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1187

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 69 ; Noes, 292. (Division List No. 86.)

Viscount Helmsley 1191

New Clause (Power to recruit to purchase discharge)—(*Viscount Helmsley*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Haldane 1191
Sir Gilbert Parker 1192
Mr. Claude Hay 1192

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 74 ; Noes, 309. (Division List No. 87).

Schedule 1 :—

Mr. William Rutherford 1195

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 8. at beginning to insert the word 'hot.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 24, alter the word 'breakfast' to insert the word 'hot.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Mar. 21.] *Page*

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 3:—

Mr. Claude Hay 1198

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9. line 33, to leave out the words 'or in a public prison.' " —(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

Mr. Haldane 1198
Mr. Claude Hay 1198

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 325; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 88.)

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1203

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1204

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-four minutes before Six o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1907

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [H.L.].—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received and ordered to lie on the Table 1205

Midland Railway Bill [H.L.].—Petition for additional provision; of the Midland Railway Company under their Common Seal, together with the proposed clauses and Amendments annexed thereto; read, and referred to the Examiners 1205

Mar. 21.] *Page*

Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1205

York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection .. 1205

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1205

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1205

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ESTIMATES).—Approximate Estimate of expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903 1205

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Statement showing the numbers and salaries of teachers in voluntary schools in England and Wales, for the year ended 31st July, 1906 1205

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.—Annual Report of proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., etc., for the year 1906 1205

CONGESTION IN IRELAND (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Third Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Minutes of Evidence taken in London, 3rd to 20th November, 1906, and documents relating thereto).

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table 1206

ARMY (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).—Statement of the amount due by the public to depositors on 31st March, 1905, and of the receipts, interest, and disbursements during the year ended 31st March, 1906, etc. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1206

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.—Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 1st December, 1906 (and sealed on the 7th December, 1906), amending Statute III., Clause 11, of the statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Oriel College, Oxford, on the 11th October, 1906, and sealed on the 29th November, 1906), amending Statute VI., 5, of the statutes of the college.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. [No. 22.] 1206

NEW BILLS.

Destructive Insects and Pests Bill [H.L.]. (No. 23).—A Bill to extend the Destructive Insects Act, 1877, to all pests destructive to crops, trees, or bushes. And,

Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Bill [H.L.]. (No. 24).—A Bill to enable Provisional Orders to be made for regulating salmon and fresh-water fisheries.

Were presented by the Earl Carrington; read 1ª; and to be printed .. 1206

Mar. 22.] *Page*

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Brought from the Commons, and read 1ª .. 1206

Business of the House.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting 1207

The Earl of Rosebery 1207
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 1208
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1209

The Territorial Army.

The Earl of Wemyss 1212

Moved "That this House, having three years ago successfully opposed the absorption of the Militia into the Regular Army, is now of opinion that the proposed amalgamation of the Militia and Volunteers in a 'speculative,' so-called, 'national Army' is a wrongful ignoring of the good service rendered by the Militia in the past and of its capabilities in the future, while it would fail to secure a reliable force for home defence."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

The Duke of Bedford 1216
Viscount Harding 1228
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 1233
The Marquess of Salisbury 1240
Lord Abinger 1249
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*Lord Tweedmouth*) 1251
The Earl of Donoughmore 1255

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Welsh Ponies.

Lord Kenyon 1258
The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) 1259
Earl Cawdor 1260

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—(Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 2ª (The Lord President (*E. Crewe*): Committee negatived: Bill read 3ª, and passed 1260

House adjourned at ten minutes before Eight o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, 22nd MARCH, 1907.

COMMISSION.

The following Bill received the Royal Assent: Consolidated (Fund No. 1) .. 1261

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Twelve o'clock, to Tuesday next, Three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, having returned,—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to,—

1. Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1907 1261

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1261

Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Read the third time, and passed 1261

Bude Gas Bill; **Falmouth Gas Bill.**—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1261

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to, Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to dissolve the marriage of Henry Morgan Byrne, Barrister-at-Law, with Edith Laura Byrne, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again; and for other purposes." [Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Corporation of Birmingham to acquire further lands for the purposes of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903: and for other purposes." [Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords] 1261

FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 1262

Byrne's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time 1262

Birmingham Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1262

Burnley Corporation Bill.—"To empower the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the county borough of Burnley to retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of surplus lands; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 1262

Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill.—"For making railways and piers in the counties of Sligo and Mayo, to be called the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 1262

Mar. 22.] *Page*

FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [Lords].—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bill, that they do hear Counsel and examine witnesses for FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear counsel and examine witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned see fit to be heard by counsel and produce witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General*) 1262

Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1263

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1263

Brockenhurst Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 1263

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment; [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1263

Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment; [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1263

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour; From Bold; Bwllfa; Carfin; Clay Cross; Colcorton; Craignuk; Cwmanan; Desford; Dudley; Dyke Head; Gelli Isaf; Grange Moor; Grassmoor; Hazlehead; Jubilee Crompton; Kenmuirhill; Lepton; Lower Darwen; Lower Duffryn; Netherton; Old Silkstone; Poynton; Rob Royd; Southgate; South Leicestershire; Strafford Main; Whitwell; and, Yorkshire Bowers No. 3 Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1263

LICENSING ACTS.—Petitions for alteration of law; From North Durham; and, Trafford Park (two); to lie upon the Table 1263

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.—Two Petitions from Merthyr Tydvil, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1263

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour; From Argyle; Bridgend; Coupar Angus; Glasgow; Kirkintilloch; Lerwick; and, Stonehaven; to lie upon the Table 1264

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Penzance, against; to lie upon the Table 1264

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.—Petition from Oldham, against; to lie upon the Table 1264

Mar. 22.] *Page*

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.—Petitions in favour; From Dundee; Edinburgh; Manchester; Members of Trades Unions; and, Town and County Councils and others (two): to lie upon the Table 1264

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition of Women of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table 1264

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRICES OF EXPORTED COAL.—Return presented, relative thereto, [ordered 21st February; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 90] 1264

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1907, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Navy Votes for the year 1906–7 to meet excesses on other Navy Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]: to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 91] 1264

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (ARMY VOTES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1907, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Army Votes for the year 1906–7 to defray excesses on other Army Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 92] 1264

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 6th March, 1907, declaring that William Edwards, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1265

FACTORY INSPECTORS.—Address for "Return of the names and previous occupations or professions of (a) the Inspectors, (b) the Inspectors' Assistants, and (c) the Lady Inspectors, who are now serving; the dates of their appointment; and the number of candidates who sat at the examinations when each was successful, in so far as the appointments have been filled by competitive examination."—(*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.*) 1265

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PERSIAN MINERAL OIL CONCESSION.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Sir Edward Gray 1265

RUSSIAN CONSULATES IN PERSIA.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews, Burghs); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1265

RESERVATION OF UNITED STATES TRADE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1266

EGYPTIAN NATIONALIST PARTY.—Question. Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1266

EGYPTIAN SCHOOLS CURRICULUM.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1266

Mar. 22.]

Page

TRAINING OF TEACHERS FOR EGYPTIAN SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1266

CAIRO THOROUGHFARE.—Questions, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1267

EGYPTIAN ASSIZE APPEALS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1268

BOARD OF TRADE MARINE DEPARTMENT STAFF.—Question, Mr. H. J. Craig (Tynemouth); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1268

TRADE RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Essex (Gloucestershire, Cirencester); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1268

METRIC SYSTEM IN FRANCE.—Question, Sir George Scott Robertson; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1269

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY CHEAP WORKMEN'S TICKETS.—Question, Mr. Branch (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1269

COLONIAL CONFERENCE AND COLONIAL PREFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Hills (Durham); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1269

CANADIAN ANTI-DUMPING LAW.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1270

BATTLESHIP MAGAZINES.—Question, Mr. H. J. Craig; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1270

EXPLOSIVES ON H.M. BATTLESHIPS.—Question, Mr. P. W. Wilson (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1270

FISH IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Charles Wilson (Hull, W.); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1271

SCOTTISH RATING SYSTEM.—Question, Capt. Waring (Banffshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1271

CLYDE FISHERY INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1271

SPROUSTON STATION MASTER.—Question, Mr. Keir Kardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1272

CITY CORPORATION COMMITTEES AND REFRESHMENTS.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1272

TREATMENT OF MARRIED PAUPERS.—Question, Mr. Essex; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1273

GRANTS TO DISTRESS COMMITTEES.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1273

DISTRESS COMMITTEES.—Question, Mr. Thorne; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 1273

GRANTS TO UNEMPLOYED.—Question, Mr. Keir Kardie; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1274

CROWN LANDS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES.—Question, Mr. Vivian (Birkenhead); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1274

CUSTOMS ASSISTANT CLERKS.—Question, Sir William Bull (Hammersmith); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1274

TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS.—Question, Mr. Essex; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1274

TREATMENT OF LUNATICS.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answers, Mr. Thomas Shaw 1275

BUTTER AND MARGARINE BILL.—Questions, Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher (Sussex, Lewes), and Mr. Bridgeman; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 1275

BRITISH WORKMEN AT HAMBURG.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1276

HULL CHIEF CONSTABLE AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Question, Mr. Clynes; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1277

CLARE SHOOTING CASE TRIAL.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 1277

INCOME TAX REFUNDS.—Question, Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1277

INCOME TAX LIABILITIES.—Question, Mr. George White; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1277

SUGAR TAX REVENUE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1278

GOLD AND BANK RESERVES.—Question, Mr. G. H. Faber (Boston); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1278

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—GOVERNMENT LIABILITIES.—Question, Mr. G. H. Faber; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1279

MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Morley 1279

BENARES HINDOO COLLEGE.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1280

BALLY COFEY STATION, DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. C. McVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1280

STRIAMSTOWN ESTATE, GALWAY.—Question, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1281

MAJOR CONLON'S TYNAGH ESTATES.—Question, Mr. John Roche; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1281

ENGLISH AND IRISH PRIVY COUNCILS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1282

Mar. 22.] *Page*

IRISH PRIVY COUNCIL MEETINGS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1282

IRISH JUDGES AND VICEREGAL LEVEES.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1283

TYPHUS FEVER AT OUGHTERARD.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1283

TRALEE ASSIZE.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorks, E.R., Holderness); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1284

IRISH UNIVERSITY BILL.—Question, Dr. Hazel; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1285

IRISH JUDICIAL PATRONAGE.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1285

MONASTEREVAN INQUEST.—Question, Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1286

ARMY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT PROMOTION.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1286

EMOLUMENTS OF THE CIVIL STAFF OF THE ARMY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1287

MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE ARMY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1287

SIGNALLING REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Vivian; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1287

ARTILLERY MILITIA TRAINING.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1288

WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1288

YEOMANRY—SUGGESTED MESS ALLOWANCE.—Question, Mr. Fiennes (Oxfordshire, Banbury); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1289

CLARE MILITIA.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1290

VOLUNTEER CORPS DEBTS.—Question, Mr. George Faber; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1290

LICENSING REVENUE STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Charles Roberts (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1291

COLONIES AND COLONIAL PREFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1291

CUSTOMS, OUTDOOR INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1292

SECOND DIVISION CLERKS.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1292

Mar. 22.]

Page

ROYAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY.—Questions, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answers, Mr. Runciman 1293

TUBERCULAR BEASTS.—Question, Sir Arthur Bignold (Wick Burghs); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1294

KENSINGTON GUARDIANS AND MEDICAL RELIEF.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1295

COST OF LONDON POOR LAW ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Haddock; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1295

LEARNERS IN THE TELEGRAPH SERVICE.—Questions, Mr. Steadman (Finsbury, Central); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1296

AUSTRALIAN MAILS.—Questions, Mr. O. C. Philipps (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1297

LEAD POISONING IN THE POTTERIES.—Question, Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1298

POLICE AND ALL NIGHT SITTINGS.—Question, Mr. Walrond (Devonshire, Tiverton); Answer, Mr Gladstone 1299

LONG SENTENCE CONVICTS.—Question, Sir William Bull (Hammersmith); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1299

CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONERS—AGENCY CHARGES.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Stuart Wortley 1299

BOMBAY EVICTED RYOTS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Morley 1300

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS' POWERS AND DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1301

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1301

MICHAEL BARRY'S GORTKELLY (TIPPERARY) ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1301

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL PRINTING CONTRACTS.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1302

WAR OFFICE HARNESS CONTRACT.—Question, Dr. Cooper; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1303

RIFLE RANGES.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1303

ARMY RESERVISTS.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1304

THIRD BATTALION WEST RIDING REGIMENT—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorks, W. R., Barkston Ash); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1304

Ex-Soldiers' Superannuation Allowance.—Question, Mr. Walter Long; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1305

Sittings of the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Twelve of the clock, and that on conclusion of Government Business Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Sir A. Acland-Hood (*Somerset, Wellington*) 1305

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs*) 1306
Mr. Austen Chamberlain (*Worcestershire, E.*) 1307
Sir F. Banbury (*City of London*) 1308

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 219; noes, 54. (Division List No. 89.)

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Straus (*Tower Hamlets, Mile End*) 1311
Sir H. Norman (*Wolverhampton, S.*) 1324

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time." (*Mr. Straus.*)

Mr. Haworth (*Manchester. S.*) 1332
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clithero*) 1340

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Haworth.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir Edward Sassoon (*Hythe*) 1345
Sir G. Scott Robertson (*Bradford Central*) 1349
Mr. Kelley (*Manchester, S.W.*) 1352
Mr. Barran (*Leeds. N.*) 1353
The President of the Board of Trade (*Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs*) 1355
Mr. Lupton (*Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) 1359

Question put.

The House divided ;—Ayes, 118; Noes, 150. (Division List No. 90.)

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to. Second Reading put off for six months.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; that they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure; Mr. Arthur Lee.

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Lights on Vehicles Bill; Major Renton, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Fiennes, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Abel Smith, Mr. Arthur Stanley, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. Rose, Mr. Rendall, Mr. Vaughan-Davies, Mr. Long, Mr. William Nicholson, Mr. Arrthur Dewar, Mr. Cathcart Wason, and Mr. C. H. Corbett.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures (in respect of the Railways (Contracts) Bill); Mr. Akers-Douglas; and had appointed in substitution, Sir Frederick Banbury (in respect of the Railways (Contracts) Bill).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Merchandise Marks Bill; Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Middlemore, Mr. Field, Sir Benjamin Stone, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Maddison, Mr. Ridsdale, Sir William Holland, Mr. Crossfield, Mr. Wadsworth, Mr. Boland, Mr. Ellis Davies, Mr. Cleland, and Mr. Hudson.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1363

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at Ten minutes after Five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: SATURDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Birkenhead, Lincoln, Milford Haven, Shipley, and Warrington," presented by Dr. Macnamara; supported by Mr. Burns; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 132.] .. 1365

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Brumby and Frodingham, the Appleby Joint Cometery District, and the Rugby Joint Hospital District," presented by Dr. Macnamara; supported by Mr. Burns; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 133.] 1365

Mar. 23.] *Page*

PETITIONS.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour; from Denaby Main; Dinnington; Habergham; Kiveton Park; Pilsley; Plaspower; Shirland; and Whitehaven; to lie upon the Table 1365

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill.—Petition from the London Association for Protection of Trade, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. 1365

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of the Fifty-second Annual Report on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland for 1906 and Forty-second Annual Report on Vaccination [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1365

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Crofters' Commission for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1366

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.—Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Aberdeen for the year ending 15th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 93.] 1366

COAL EXPORTED.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st February; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 94.] .. 1366

LIGHTHOUSES, ETC. (LOCAL INSPECTORS).—Copies presented, of Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, of their Inspection of Local Lighthouses, Buoys, and Beacons [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 95.] 1366

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Annual Series) Nos. 3748 and 3749 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1366

LICENSING STATISTICS, 1906.—Copy presented, of Statistics as to the operation and administration of the Laws relating to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1366

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PROTECTION OF ENGLISH FISHING GROUNDS.—Question, Mr. Mallet (Plymouth); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1366

GAELIC INTERPRETER AT GALWAY COUNTY COURT.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 1367

TEACHERS' DEFERRED ANNUITY FUND.—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorks, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1367

REVENUE FROM POSTAGE TO HONG KONG—SUBSIDY TO CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1368

HONG KONG MAILS.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1369

Mar. 23.]

Page

GOVERNING BODY OF NEW TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 1369

TEACHERS AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.—Question, Viscount Valentia (Oxford); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1370

NAVY ESTIMATES—VOTE OF—GUNS IN RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1370

NAVY—NUCLEUS CREWS.—Question, Mr. Nield; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1371

DELAY IN COMPLETION OF CRUICERS OF THE "INVINCIBLE" CLASS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1371

IMPORTATION INTO CANADA OF GERMAN CUTLERY DESCRIBED AS "SHEFFIELD."—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. 1371

RELATION OF RETIRED COLONIAL GOVERNORS TO COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF COLONIES.—Question, Sir F. Banbury (City of London); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1372

TRINIDAD LABOURERS' CONTRACT FOR WORK ON THE PANAMA CANAL.—Question, Sir F. Banbury; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1372

SUPPLY (CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES).—Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.) 1372
Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.) 1393

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the provision for primary education in Ireland is insufficient and unsatisfactory, and that the interests of the Irish people have been and are suffering most ruinous injury from the long delay in applying a remedy.'"—(*Mr. John O'Connor.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) 1399
Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.) 1400
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1403
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 1409
Mr. Gwynn (Galway) 1414
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1419
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 1435
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 1445
Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.) 1447

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 22nd March.

Adjourned at nine minutes after Six of the Clock, till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received Communications expressing the condolence of the Portuguese Chamber of Deputies on the occasion of the destruction of the city of Kingston by an earthquake 1449

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Royal Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; West Riding Tramways Bill [Lords]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords]; Medway Lower Navigation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1451

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1451

Basingstoke Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1451

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1451

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Orders for Committal [20th and 28th February] read and discharged.

Mar. 25.] *Page*

Resolution of the House of the 18th day of March, relative to the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill, which was ordered to be communicated to the Lords, and the Message from the Lords of the 19th day of March signifying their concurrence in the said Resolution, read.

Ordered, That the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Select Committee of Five Members, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, to be joined with a Committee of Five Lords.

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That all Petitions in favour of or against the Bills, respectively, presented on or before the 22nd day of April, 1907, be referred to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard against the Bills, or either of them, by themselves, their counsel, agents, or witnesses be heard, and counsel be heard in support of the Bills.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Burns*) 1451

Marriages Provisional Order Bill; Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time and passed 1452

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petition from Dygwynbach, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1452

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour:—From Barrhill; and Govan; to lie upon the Table 1452

TILONKO.—Petition of Tilonko (a native chief of Natal), for inquiry into his case; to lie upon the Table 1452

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' ARRANGEMENTS—Copy presented, of correspondence between the Board of Trade and the Railway Companies' Association with regard to certain arrangements entered into by railway companies with regard to rebates on traffic, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1452

EAST INDIA (CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 18th March; *Mr. Rees*]; to lie upon the Table 1452

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Thirteenth Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, being for the year ending 30th September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1453

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 20th March, 1907, declaring that Walter Henry Jeakins, Clerk, Post Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1453

Mar. 25.] *Page*

TRADE REPORT (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Annual Series) Nos. 3750 and 3751 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1435

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) RETURNS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Local Taxation in Ireland for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1453

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POST).—Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Post Amendment (No. 15) Warrant, 1907, dated 14th February, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1453

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

YORKSHIRE MINER'S ASSOCIATION—FUNDS AND PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX.—Question, Mr. Wadsworth (Yorkshire, W.R., Hallamshire); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1454

ADVERTISEMENT FOR TELEGRAPHISTS.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.) Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1454

BELFAST PUBLICANS — AMOUNT OF LICENCE DUTY.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1455

CLOSING OF HOUSES ON THE ESTATES OF LORDS LONGFORD, DE VESCI, AND CARYSFORT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1455

BUTTER BILL—DATE OF SECOND READING.—Question, Mr. A. L. Stanley (Cheshire, Eddisbury); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1456

EQUIVALENT GRANTS.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1456

NATIONAL FINANCES—USE OF SURPLUSES.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1467

SERVICE OF SUMMONSES BY ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1460

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF ROBERT COOKE.—Question, Mr. MacVeig} (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1461

APPORTIONMENT OF THE MOUNTSHANNON ESTATE, COUNTY LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1461

SALE OF SIR C. BARRINGTON'S ESTATES.—Question, Mr. Lundon Answer, Mr. Birrell 1462

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF PATRICK O'BRIEN.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1462

IRISH SCHOOL TEACHERS AS INCOME TAX COLLECTORS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E,); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1463

IRISH LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Question, Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. — 1463

Mar. 25.] *Page*

INSPECTION OF ESTATES IN COUNTY WEXFORD.—Question, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1464

PAY OF LABOURERS ON DORAGHADEE HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1464

REMOVAL OF BONES OF KING HENRY II., KING JOHN AND KING RICHARD CŒUR DE LION FROM FRANCE.—Question, Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1465

ASSISTANCE OF BRITISH CONSULS OF BRITISH TRADERS ABROAD—COUNTERFIET TRADE MARKS.—Question, Mr. Tillett (Norwich); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1465

INCREASE OF TURKISH CUSTOMS DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Gooch (Bath); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1466

PAUPERISM.—Question, Mr. Haddock; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1466

THE FRANCHISE—PROCEDURE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1466

HOLYHEAD AS PORT OF ARRIVAL FOR AMERICAN MAILS.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1466

SUGGESTED TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS FROM FERMOY TO WATERFORD.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1467

COUNTY COUNCILS AND SMALL HOLDINGS.—Question, Mr. C. B. Harmsworth (Worcestershire, Droitwich); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1468

ERECTION OF LIGHT AT CLANCHLAND POINT.—Question, Mr. Lamont (Buteshire); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1468

WRECKS OF ABERDEEN TRAWLERS—BOARD OF TRADE INQUIRIES.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1468

REBUILDING OF REGENT STREET QUADRANT.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1469

CLOSING OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM READING ROOM.—Question, Mr. Paul (Northampton)); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1470

GRIEVANCES OF CLERKS TO SURVEYORS OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. Seaverns (Lambeth, Brixton); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1470

ASSESSMENT OF COTTAGE PROPERTY.—(Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1471

SUGGESTED DISCONTINUANCE OF ANNUAL LICENCE FEE OF IRISH SOLICITORS.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1471

REDUCTION OF STRENGTH OF MOPLAH RIFLES.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 1472

BOYCOTT OF BRITISH GOODS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 1472

Mar. 25.] Page

QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE FAMILY PENSIONS FUND.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley 1473

THE LATE MAJOR MILL, BENGAL ARTILLERY—SUGGESTED CONTINUANCE OF COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE TO DAUGHTER.—Question, Sir Edwin Cornwall (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1474

SALE OF THE O'DWYER ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1475

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1476

SALE OF IRISH ESTATES—BUYING OUT EXISTING TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1476

PURCHASE OF THE GREGG ESTATE, WESTMEATH.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1477

SALE OF MISS M'CORMACK'S ESTATE IN WESTMEATH AND LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1477

SALE OF SIR HENRY BURKE'S ESTATE, COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1478

SALE OF GRASS FARMS AT ATHLONE.—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1478

EXPORTS OF IRISH TIMBER.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1479

PURCHASE OF LAND OF MR. RADWELL OF DOWTH HALL, DROGHEDA.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1480

ENLARGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF IRISH NON-VESTED SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1480

DELAY IN SALE OF ROWE'S ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Ffrench; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1481

THE GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY AND ABBEYFEALE TOWN TENANTS' ASSOCIATION.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1481

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY SERGEANTS' MESS.—Question, Mr. Mond (Chester); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 1482

INEFFECTIVE WARSHIP.—Question, Mr. Murray Macdonald (Falkirk Burghs); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1482

NAVAL GUN RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1482

EXPENDITURE ON DOVER HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1483

Page

DOVER HARBOUR MOORINGS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1483

DEFECTIVE NAVAL AMMUNITION.—Question, Viscount Helmsley (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1484

H.M.S. "Dreadnought"—COST OF ARMAMENTS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1484

STRENGTH OF THE INFANTRY RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster; Answer, The Secretary of State for War, Mr. Haldane (Haddington) 1485

UNIFORM ALLOWANCES FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport), Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1485

LORD ESHER.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend), Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1487

SHOEBURY FORESHORE RIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1488

LONDON DEFENCES.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1488

PROVOST-MARSHAL'S ASSISTANTS.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1488

ARMY STATISTICS.—Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1489

BURMESE RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 1490

GRANTS TO JAMAICA.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) .. 1490

JAMAICA AND BRITISH WAR EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1491

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.—Questions, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.), Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answers, Mr. Harcourt 1492

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE BY SHIPPING REGULATIONS.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1492

WESTERN PACIFIC—MR. DEAKIN'S DESPATCH.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1492

DINUZULU.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1493

REPATRIATION OF CHINESE LABOURERS.—Question, Mr. Fullerton (Cumberland, Egremont); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1493

THE GORDON DRILL IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Question, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1493

Mar. 25.] Page

TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT AND CHINESE LABOUR.—Questions, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Fiennes (Oxfordshire, Banbury), and Sir Gilbert Parker; Answers, Mr. Harcourt 1493

NATIVE LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness, Mr. Fiennes; Answers, Mr. Harcourt 1494

BENGUELEA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1495

FRAUDULENT BANKRUPTCY IN RUSSIA AND POLAND.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 1495

LIGHTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN—WRECK OF THE "IMPERATRIX."—Question, Mr. Thornton (Clapham); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1495

HAGUE CONFERENCE AND DISARMAMENT.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1496

UNITED STATES AND COASTAL TRADE.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1496

CANADIAN TARIFFS.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1497

FRENCH RAILWAY ON THE YUNNAN FRONTIER.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1497

THE ASSUAM DAM.—Questions, Mr. Lea and Mr. Cheetham (Stalybridge); Answers, Mr. Runciman 1498

MACEDONIAN FINANCIAL COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Charles Roberts (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1498

DISTRIBUTION OF EQUIVALENT GRANT.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) .. 1498

NATIONAL FINANCES—ALLEGED IMPROPER APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUSES.—Questions, Mr. Bowles, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University), Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby), and Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.); Answers, Mr. Asquith .. 1499

CANADIAN COMPANIES' CAPITAL.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1503

THE BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Austen Chamberlain; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1503

JUDGES' ALLOWANCES.—Question, Mr. Morton and Mr. Charles MacVeigh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1503

FACTORY INSPECTORS AND INQUESTS.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1504

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN PUBLIC HOUSES.—Questions, Mr. Smeaton and Mr. Lea; Answers, Mr. Gladstone 1505

Mar. 25.] *Page*

SALFORD STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES AND PASSIVE RESISTERS.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1505

HULL CHIEF CONSTABLE AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1506

CRIMINALS AT LARGE.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1507

CRIME IN WILTSHIRE.—Question, Mr. Mooney; Answer. Mr. Gladstone .. 1507

CRIMES IN ENGLAND.—Question, Mr. Mooney; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1508

PENGE VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1508

JUVENILE WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS.—Question, Sir Berkeley Sheffield (Lancashire, Brigg); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1509

BANKRUPT ALIENS.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon; Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 1509

NEWBURY RAILWAY STATION.—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. Kearley 1510

BRITISH IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURES.—Question, Mr. Austen Chamberlain; Answer, Mr. Kearley 1511

RAILWAY COMPANIES' COMBINATION.—Question, Mr. Clement Edwards (Denbigh Districts); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1511

DOVER HARBOUR—PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE POLL TAX.—Question, Mr. W. R. Rea (Scarborough); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1511

LORD DE RAMSEY AND HIS ALLOTMENTS' TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. A. Allan (Christchurch), and Mr. Stanley Wilson; Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1512

GRAND COMMITTEE ROOMS.—Question, Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1513

HOUSE ATTENDANTS AND ALL NIGHT SITTINGS.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1513

WORCESTERSHIRE EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. C. B. Harmsworth (Worcestershire, Droitwich); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouth, N.) 1514

TEACHERS' SALARIES RETURNS.—Question, Lord R. Cecil; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1514

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY AT THE LAW COURTS.—Question, Mr. Radford (Islington, E.); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1514

SALMON FISHERIES BILL.—Question, Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1515

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. 1515

Mar. 25.] *Page*

SCOTTISH SALMON FISHERY RIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Gulland; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1515

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Questions, Mr. Morton and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1517

ARBROATH RAILWAY FATALITY.—Questions, Mr. Bell (Derby), and Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central); Answers, The Lord-Advocate (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 1517

PAKENHAM-MAHON ESTATE, ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 1518

SEED POTATOES FOR CURRAGHMORE.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1518

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, BY-LAWS—DONEGAL RESOLUTIONS.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1519

DUKE OF ABERCORN'S DONEGAL ESTATE.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1519

DUNSHAUGHLIN LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Questions, Mr. Sheehy (Meath, S.), and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1520

IRELAND AND EDUCATION GRANTS.—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1521

DUBLIN TRAINING COLLEGE—DONEGAL PROTEST.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1521

ARDCATH (MEATH) POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Sheehy; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1521

KERRY MAIL CONTRACT.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1522

GOVERNMENT LICENSING BILL.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1522

EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1523

JAMAICA—RELIEF GRANT.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1523

THE BUTTER BILL.—Question, Sir F. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1523

NATIONAL FINANCES—USE OF SURPLUSES.—Questions, Mr. Bowles, Mr. Stanley Wilson, Mr. A. J. Balfour and Sir Charles Dilke; Answers, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Asquith 1524

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones; Answer, Mr. Speaker 1525

Mar. 25.]

Page

Railway (Contracts) Bill.—Report, without Amendment, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 96.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 96.]

Bill to be considered upon Friday the 14th June 1526

Public Petitions Committee.—First Report brought up, and read ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1527

Small Holdings Bill.—Order for Second Reading upon Friday the 17th May read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1527

NEW BILLS.

Regulation of Railways Bill.—" To amend the Railways Regulation Act, 1840 to 1893," presented by Mr. Timothy Davies ; supported by Mr. Arthur Allen, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Lyulph Stanley, and Mr. Steadman ; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 134.]

Railways, Mines, Canals, Etc., Bill.—" To Provide for the nationalisation of Railways, Mines, Canals, and Tramways," presented by Mr. Thorne ; supported by Mr. Snowden, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Summerbell, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Gill, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Barnes ; to be read a second time upon Friday 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 135] 1527

Eight Hours Bill.—" To restrict the Hours of Labour in all trades and industries to Eight per day," presented by Mr. Thorne ; supported by Mr. Jowett, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Summerbell, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Wilkie ; to be read a second time upon Friday 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 136] 1527

Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill.—" To amend section seventy-eight of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the deduction of the space occupied by propelling power in ascertaining the tonnage of a ship," presented by Mr. Lloyd-George ; to be read a second time upon Monday 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 137] 1527

Public Rights of Way Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Public Rights and Ways," presented by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald ; supported by Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Eugene Wason, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Hills, Mr. Abel Thomas, Mr. William Redmond, and Mr. Arthur Henderson ; to be read asecond time upon Wednesday 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 138.] 1528

Sheriff Courts (Scotland).

The Lord Advocate (*Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs*) 1528

Motion made, and Question " That leave be given to bring in a Bill to regulate and amend the Laws and practice relating to the civil procedure in Sheriff Courts in Scotland, and for other purposes "—put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Mar 25.] *Page*

Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Bill.—"To regulate and amend the Laws and practice relating to the civil procedure in Sheriff Courts in Scotland; and for other purposes," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 139.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [20th March], "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to (a) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (b) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders. (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Question again proposed.

Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 1531
Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross) 1534
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 1535
The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Sir Henry Fowler, Wolverhampton, E.) 1547
Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 1552
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) 1554
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) 1558
Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.) 1560
Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 1562
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1565
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 1568
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1575
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 1578

Amendment proposed.

> "In line 1, to leave out from the beginning to 'but,' in line 3, and insert 'there shall be a Business Committee of the House, consisting of Mr. Speaker and six other Members nominated by Mr. Speaker, who shall be representative of the various sections of political opinion in the House. All Bills, when they have been read a second time, shall stand committed to either Committee of the Whole House, or to a Grand or Special Committee, in accordance with the decision of the Business Committee.'"—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'when a' stand part of the Question."

Sir Henry Fowler 1581
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1582
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 1582
Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's) 1582
Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) 1584

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 257 ; Noes, 35. (Division List No. 91.)

Mr. Stuart Wortley 1587

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the first 'a,' to insert 'Government.'"—(*Mr. Stuart Wortley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Government' be there inserted."

Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 1589
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1590
Mr. Walter Long 1590
Mr. John Ellis (Notts, Rushcliffe) 1591
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 1592
Mr. Laurence Hardy 1593
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 1593
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1594

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 42 ; Noes, 281. (Division List No. 92.)

Mr. Stuart Wortley 1597

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'by a majority of more than two-thirds of the Members voting in the said division.'"—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1599
Mr. Walter Long 1599
Mr. Laurence Hardy 1600
Sir Francis Powell 1601
Sir F. Banbury 1601
Mr. William Rutherford 1604

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 52 ; Noes, 296. (Division List No. 93.)

Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood) 1609
Viscount Helmsley (Yorks, N.R., Thirsk) 1609

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'during the time for opposed business.'"—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mar. 26.] *Page*

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1610
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 1610
Lord R. Cecil 1611
Sir F. Banbury 1611
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1612
Sir Henry Fowler 1612
Mr. Laurence Hardy 1613
Mr. Stanley Wilson 1613

Motion made and Question, " That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

Army Annual Bill.—As amended, considered.

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1613

Amendment proposed—

" In Clause 10, page 5, line 32, to leave out the words " and his assistants."—*Sir Charles Dilke.*

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Haldane, Haddington*) 1615
Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 1616

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn 1616

Irish Tobacco Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc. 1616

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1907.

The Lord RIBBLESDALE—Sat Speaker.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—(No. 26); Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill (No. 27).—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 1617

Mar. 26.] *Page*

FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence taken before this House, together with the proceedings, and the documents deposited in the case; ordered to be communicated with a request that they may be returned 1617

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill; Bude Gas Bill; Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restriction) Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 1617

Metropolitan Water Board, (Charges, etc.) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill. Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Committee to consist of five members to join with a Committee of this House to consider the said Bills, and request this House to appoint an equal number of Lords to be joined with the Members of their House .. 1617

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3748. Persia (Ispahan and Yezd).

No. 3749. Roumania (Supplementary).

No. 3750. West Africa (Liberia).

No. 3751. Mexico (Budget) 1617

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).—Returns for the year 1905–1906 1617

RAILWAY COMPANIES (ARRANGEMENTS).—Correspondence between the Board of Trade and the Railway Companies Association with regard to certain arrangements entered into by railway companies with regard to rebates on traffic, etc. 1617

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).—Thirteenth Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufacturers in Scotland, for the year ended 30th September, 1906 .. 1618

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, AND VACCINATION.—Fifty-second Annual Report of the Registrar-General in Scotland, for the year 1906; and Forty-second Annual Report on Vaccination 1618

LICENSING STATISTICS, 1906.—Statistics as to the operation and administration of the laws relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor, for the year 1906 .. 1618

CROFTERS BUILDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886–1887.—Report by the Crofters Commission, being for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1618

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minutes, dated 6th and 20th March, 1907, respectively, declaring that the following persons were appointed without Civil Service certificates, through inadvertence on the part of the heads of their department, viz.:—William Edwards, artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, War Office; Walter Henry Jeakins, clerk, Post Office .. 1618

Mar. 26.] *Page*

Court of Probate Division (High Court of Justice (Ireland)).—Annual account of receipts and disbursements for year ended 31st December, 1906 1618

Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889.—Annual Report on the state of the finances of the University of Aberdeen, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889, for the year 1905–1906 1618

Post Office.—The Foreign and Colonial Post Amendment (No. 15) Warrant, 1907, dated 14th February, 1907 1618

Lighthouses, etc. (Local Inspections).—Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, of their inspection of local lighthouses, buoys, and beacons (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 92, of Session 1906) 1619

Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865.—Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, approving memorials of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty praying,

That they may be empowered to award at their discretion to the Commanders-in-Chief at the three Home Ports such rate of commuted allowance, in lieu of servants, within a maximum of £500 a year, as the circumstances of each case may require.

For sanction to certain modifications in the existing system of clothing and bedding gratuities to petty officers, seamen and boys.

For sanction to the payment of the allowance of 2d. a day now paid to Royal Marines when employed as tailors to any rating when so employed .. 1619

General Medical Council (Receipts and Expenditure).—Returns of receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the branch councils; also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1619

Army (Annual) Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday the 15th of April next. [No. 25] 1619

House adjourned at a quarter past Three o'clock to Monday, the 15th of April next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 26th MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bude Gas Bill (Prince of Wales' Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed 1620

Mar. 26.] *Page*

Falmouth Gas Bill—Read the third time, and passed 1620

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1620

Private Bills, etc.—Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 128, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any Documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, also for depositing at the Private Bill Office all documents relating to any Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 1620

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act, 1861, in the matter of certain lands in the parish of Keadby, in the county of Lincoln (parts of Lindsey)," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 140.] 1620

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act, 1861, in the matter of the Oulton, Carlton, etc., Marshes, in the parishes of Oulton, Carlton Colville, and Barnby, in the county of Suffolk," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 141.] 1620

Worthing Gas Bill; Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill; Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill; Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1621

Rights of Way (Scotland) Bill.—Order for Second Reading upon Wednesday, 10th April, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1621

PETITIONS.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour; from Amman Valley; Ashton's Green; Bedwellty; Blaenavon; Bond's Main; Caeglas; Carway; Cawdor; Coedmoeth; Cross Hands; Cwm Veg; Daldowie; Emlyn Lodge; Gelly Ceidrim; Glangarnant; Gorseygarnant; Great Mountain; Hartshead; Maesmarchog; North Blaina; Pantyffynnon; Park; Pochin (No. 2); Rhos; Rock Lodge; Waterloo; White Rose; and, Whitwick Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1621

Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions against; from Edinburgh; and Stonehouse; to lie upon the Table 1621

Liquor Traffic Local Option (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions against; from Findochty; and Orkney; to lie upon the Table 1621

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 1st March, 1907, approving a Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty praying, (1) that they may be empowered to award at their discretion to the Commanders-in-Chief at the three home ports such rate of commuted allowance in lieu of servants, within a maximum of £500 a year, as the circumstances of each case may require; (2) for sanction to certain modifications in the existing system of clothing and bedding gratuities to petty officers, seamen, and boys; (3) for sanction to the payment of the allowance of 2d. a day, now paid to Royal Marines when employed as tailors, to any rating when so employed [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1621

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).—Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1622

BOBBINITE.—Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee on Bobbinite; Report and Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1622

MEDICAL COUNCIL.—Accounts presented, for 1906, of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1622

TREATY SERIES (No. 11, 1907).—Copy presented, of Accessions of British Colonies, etc., to various Treaty Engagements between the United Kingdom and Foreign Powers [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1622

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS (AGRICULTURAL LAND).—Return ordered, "showing the acreage, situation, tenancy, and rent of the Agricultural Land, with or without buildings, belonging to charities comprised in the Report to the Charity Commissioners, completed in 1905, of inquiries held in respect of every parish wholly or partly within the administrative county of London, except Charities for educational or religious purposes."—(*Sir William Collins.*) 1622

EAST INDIA (PUNJAB) (INQUIRY INTO DEATHS FROM TETANUS).—Address for "Return of Papers containing the results of an Inquiry into the origin of certain Deaths from Tetanus in the Punjab, consequent on the employment of Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic against plague."—(*Sir William Collins.*) .. 1622

[QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

APPOINTMENTS OF MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. Partington (Derbyshire, High Peak); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1623

PROSECUTION OF PHILIP STOKES FOR INTIMIDATION AT KILLENAULE.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 1623

INQUIRY INTO INDIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs); Answer, Mr. Morley 1623

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE RATES.—Question, Mr. Ellis Davies (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1624

CHARGE FOR POST OFFICE HAMPERS AT INNELLAW PIER.—Question, Mr. Lamont (Buteshire); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1642

VACANCY FOR OVERSEER AT BRIGHTON POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Ridsdale (Brighton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1624

MONEY-LENDING PRACTICES.—Question, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answer, Sir Lawson Walton 1625

Territorial Army—Appointment of Divisional General.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1625

Ammunition for Cadet Corps.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1625

Claims of Messrs. Fowler and Company against the Spanish Government.—Question, Mr. Seaverns (Lambeth, Brixton); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1626

Death of Ellen Simpson.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1626

Cost of Poplar (Hutton) Schools.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1627

Carriage of Australian and New Zealand Mails.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1628

Elections of Parish Councillors.—Question, ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1628

Abatements of Pay Consequent on Granting Civil Service Certificates to Temporary Clerks.—Question, Answer, Mr. Runciman 1629

British Sea Fisheries Inquiry.—Question, Mr. Helme (Lancashire, Lancaster) Answer, Mr. Asquith 1629

Legal Assistance for Irish Poor Law Guardians at Local Government Board Inquiries.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1629

Irish Land Purchase—Copies of Maps.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1630

Purchase of Untenanted Land of the Blacker Douglas Estate, North Kerry.—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1630

Flooding of Tenants' Holdings at Lixnaw, North Kerry.—Question, Mr. Flavin; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1631

Housing of Working Classes Act at Roscrea.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1631

Appointment of Warrant Officers in the Army Ordnance Corps.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1632

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Medical Treatment for Sailors.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Lambert, Devonshire, South Molton) 1632

Invalided Consumptive Soldiers.—Question, Major Seely) Liverpool, Abercromby); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1633

WAR OFFICE FORAGE CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Jesse Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1633

PRESBYTERIANS AND THE INDIAN ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENT.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 1634

VOLUNTEER RESERVES IN BRITISH PROTECTORATES.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) 1634

STEAMSHIP COMMUNICATION WITH EAST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1635

CAPE BRETON IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1635

NEW HEBRIDEAN NATIVES.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1635

FIJI SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. 1636

NEW CALEDONIAN MINES.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey (Northumberland, Berwick) .. 1636

TRANSVAAL MINISTERS' SALARIES.—Questions, Mr. Liddell (Down, W.), Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1637

AUSTRALIA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1638

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1638

TURCO-PERSIAN FRONTIER COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1639

MACEDONIAN BUDGET—CHARGES FOR TURKISH TROOPS.—Question, Mr. Lynch; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1639

CONDITION OF MOROCCO PRISONS.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1640

TURKISH CUSTOMS DUTIES ON BRITISH GOODS.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1640

NEW CALEDONIA.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1641

CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1641

THE ASSUAN DAM.—Question, Mr. Alden; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1641

CONCESSIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1642

Page

United States and Canadian Tariffs.—Question, Mr. Arnold Forster (Croydon); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1642

Charity Lands and Land Tax.—Question, Mr. Everett (Suffolk, Woodbridge); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fife, E.) .. 1643

Beer Tax.—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1644

Sale of Silver to the West Indies.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1644

Post Office Savings Bank.—Questions, Mr. Vivian (Birkenhead), Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. Chiozza Money; Answers, Mr. Asquith .. 1644

Income-Tax.—Question, Mr. Vivian; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1645

London Omnibus Service Tickets.—Question, Mr. Stanger (Kensington, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leed, W.) .. 1646

The Crown and the Police.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1646

Adulteration of Calico—Sunderland Death.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1647

Inspection of Omnibus Tickets.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1647

Licensing Justices' Liabilities.—Question, Sir H. C. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1647

Crime in West Suffolk.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, E.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1648

Alien Criminals in London.—Question, Mr. Liddell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1648

Insanitary Workshops.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1649

Juvenile Women Suffragists.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1650

London Police Libraries.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1650

Manchester Unemployed.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer The President of the Lcoal Government Board, (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1651

Treatment of Casual Paupers.—Questions, Mr. W. R. Rea (Scarborough), Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 1652

Married Women's Liability.—Question, Mr. Newnes (Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 1652

The Unemployed Fund.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 1653

Automatic Stamp Machinery.—Question, Mr. Liddell (Down, W.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 1653

Mar. 26.] *Page*

LEEDS SORTING OFFICE STAFF.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1654

DELAY IN LEEDS POSTAL APPOINTMENTS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1654

BRITISH MUSEUM READING ROOM.—Question, Mr. Radford (Islington, E.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1655

THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY.—Questions, Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney), Mr. Chiozza Money, Paddington, N.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 1655

NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1657

TITHE RENT CHARGE REDEMPTION.—Question, Mr. J. M. Henderson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1657

ANTHRAX OUTBREAKS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1658

HOUSE ATTENDANTS AND ALL-NIGHT SITTINGS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Sir A. J. Jacoby (Derbyshire, Mid.) 1659

ISLANDS OF LEWIS HERRING FISHERY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1659

SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERIES—BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1660

SCHOOL BOARD REGISTER.—Questions, Mr. Weir, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1660

SCOTLAND AND THE EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1660

SCOTTISH POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1660

LOCH NESS FISHERY.—Questions, Mr. J. Dewar (Inverness), Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1661

BEAULY AND NESS FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 1661

REENARD PIER.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1662

COOSCROUM LANDING STAGE.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1662

CATTLE RANCHES IN KING'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1663

TEACHING STAFFS OF IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1663

Page

SUGAR BEET CULTIVATION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1664

LORD CROFTON'S ROSCOMMON ESTATE.—Question, Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1665

BALLYNANTY EVICTED TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1665

MOOHAM EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1660

MANISTER EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1666

KNOCKLONG EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1666

ANGHAVAS EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Thomas F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1667

LORD DUNRAVEN'S TENANTRY.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1667

TYRONE ARRANGEMENT.—Questions, Mr. J. MacVeagh, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1668

KNOCKROW OUTRAGE.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1668

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE—SOUTH GALWAY BRANCH.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. T. L. Corbett; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1669

IRISH JUDGES' ADDRESSES.—Questions, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.), Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1669

IRISH JUDGES AND POLICE REPORTS.—Questions, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Joyce (Limerick), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1670

DUBLIN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ART.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1671

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.—Questions, Mr. Alden, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman) 1671

EXHIBITIONS AND THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Sir H. Campbell Bannerman 1672

SMALL LANDHOLDERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire, E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1672

SCOTTISH ESTIMATES.—Question, Mr. Crombie; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1672

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1673

Mar. 26.] *Page*

Business of the House.—Questions, Mr. Lane Fox, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston), Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 1673

NEW BILLS.

Adult (Women and Men) Enfranchisement Bill.—"To enable all adult women and men to vote at Parliamentary Elections," presented by Mr. Levy; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 142] 1675

Municipal Milk Depôts Bill.—"To authorise and regulate the establishment of Milk Depôts by certain local authorities, and for matters incidental thereto," presented by Mr. John Burns; supported by Dr. Macnamara; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 143] 1675

Small Holdings and Cottages Bill.—"To facilitate the supply of Small Holdings for occupying tenants and the building and improvement of Cottages," presented by Lord Robert Cecil; supported by Mr. Laurence Hardy; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 144] 1676

Business of the House (Procedure).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [25th March] to Question [20th March]. "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to (*a*) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders; (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of the Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Which Amendment was—

"In line 1, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'during the time for opposed business.'"—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) 1676
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1678
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 1680

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 94.)

Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 1683
Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) 1684

Amendment proposed—

"In lines 2 and 3, to leave out the words, 'on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate.'"—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1685
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) 1686
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 1686
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 1686
Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's) 1688
Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie) 1689
Viscount Helmsley (Yorks, N.R., Thirsk) 1689
Mr. Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.) 1690
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1690

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, after the words 'otherwise order,' to insert the words 'and such a Motion shall not require notice, may be made by any Member, and may, though opposed, be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business.'"—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 1691
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1692
Sir F. Banbury 1692
Mr. Evans 1692
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1693
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1694
Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) 1695
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1695
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1695
Viscount Helmsley 1696
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1697
Earl Percy (Kensington, S.) 1698
The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Sir Henry Fowler, Wolverhampton, E.) 1698
Sir Francis Powell 1699

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'notice,' to insert the words 'must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Evans.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport) 1700
Sir F. Banbury 1700
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1701
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1701
Mr. Laurence Hardy 1701
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 1702

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 284; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 95.)

Words as amended, inserted.

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 1705

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words 'but no Bill introduced by a private Member and obtaining a Second Reading after the expiration of the time of opposed business shall be taken at any time set apart for Government business.'"—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Henry Fowler 1707
Sir F. Banbury 1707
Mr. Evans 1707
Mr. Walter Long 1708
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1708
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1709
Lord R. Cecil 1710
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 1710

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 277. (Division List No. 96.)

Mr. Rawlinson 1713
Viscount Helmsley 1715

Amendment proposed—

"In line 5, after the word 'taxes,' to insert the words 'or rates or charges on rates.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Henry Fowler 1715
Mr. Walter Long 1716
Lord R. Cecil 1717
The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1718
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1719

Mr. Evans 1719
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1719
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1720
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 1722

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 253 ; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 97.)

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided :—Ayes, 59 ; Noes, 258. (Division List No. 98.)

Main Question again proposed.

And, it being after a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, Further Proceeding was postponed without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 4.

INCIDENCE OF TAXATION.

Mr. Bennett (Oxfordshire, Woodstock) 1729
Mr. Chiozza-Money (Paddington, N.) 1735

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, having regard to the wealth of the United Kingdom and the nature of its distribution, it is necessary to readjust the burden of taxation in order to make provision for social reforms which are urgently needed."—(*Mr. Bennett.*)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fife, E.) : 1744
Mr. Hills (Durham) 1745
Mr. Hemmerde (Denbighshire, E.) 1748
Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) 1750
Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme) 1752
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 1757
Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) 1759
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 1761

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, "That, in the opinion of this House, having regard to the wealth of the United Kingdom, and the nature of its distribution, it is necessary to readjust the burden of taxation in order to make provision for social reforms which are urgently needed."

ESTABLISHED CHURCH (SCOTLAND) (ELECTION OF MINISTERS).—Copy ordered, "of the regulations framed and enacted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to be observed in the election and appointment of Ministers under the powers conferred upon them by the Patronage Abolition Act, and Returns for each parish in Scotland of the last occasion since 1897 on which a vacancy has been filled up under any such regulations of the General Assembly, stating as follows :—

(1) The population, male and female, at the last preceding census of each such parish.

Mar. 26.] *Page*

(2) The number of male voters and female voters respectively qualified as communicants.

(3) The number of male voters and female voters respectively qualified as adherents.

(4) The total number of voters on the roll."—(*Mr. McCallum*) .. 1762

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).

Postponed Proceeding on Question [20th March]—

(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate, otherwise order, and such a Motion shall not require notice, must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time, may be made by any Member, and may, though opposed, be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business. But this order shall not apply to—

(*a*) Bills for imposing taxes or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or

(*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders.

(2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes, and from the Member who opposes, the Motion, shall, without further debate, put the Question thereon—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman*)—resumed.

Question again proposed.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday, 8th April.. 1763

"PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."—Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire and report as to the cost and method of reporting and publishing the debates and proceedings in Parliament.

Committee accordingly nominated of, Mr. Charles Allen, Mr. Barran, Mr. Hicks Beach, Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Lehmann, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Toulmin, and Mr. Walrond.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 1764

Adjourned at eight minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, WEDNESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Reports from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time. 1765

Brockenhurst Gas Bill; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1765

Burnley Corporation Bill; Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords].—Read a second time and committed 1765

Byrne's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said message.

Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bills, that they do hear counsel and examine witnesses for Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear counsel and examine witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned see fit to be heard by counsel and produce witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General*) 1765

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Allanshane; Audley; Black Park; Broomhouse; Brown Edge; Bunkers Hill; Burley; Bucknall; Cheadle; Coegnant; Crynant; Cynon; Eccleston; Ellismuir; Draycott; Fenton; Foxfield; Golden Hill; Govan; Grange; Halmer's End; Hanley (Nos. 1, 2, and 3); Holmwood (No. 1); Kidsgrove; (Nos. 6 and 18); Leycett; Longton (Nos. 1 and 2); Maesteg (two); Milton Lodge; Padell-y-Bwlch; Priory; Seven Sisters; Skelmersdale; Sneyd; Swinhill; Talke; Watermills; and Whitfield Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1766

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Kirkcaldy, against; to lie upon the Table 1766

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Bowmore; Glasgow; and Oakenshaw; to lie upon the Table 1766

Mar. 27.] *Page*

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from Surrey and other places, against; to lie upon the Table 1766

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES).—Return [presented 25th March] to be printed. [No. 97] 1766

ARMY (MILITIA UNITS).—Copy presented, of Return showing the Establishment of each Unit of Militia in the United Kingdom and the numbers present, absent, and wanting to complete, at the training of 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1766

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st December, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1766

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).—Copy presented, of Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 98] 1767

EXPLOSIONS (ARDEER, AYRSHIRE).—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion of nitro-glycerine, which occurred at the factory of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, at Ardeer, near Stevenson, Ayrshire, on the 5th February, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1767

MINES (EIGHT-HOURS DAY FOR MINERS).—Copy presented, of First Report (with Evidence) of a Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to inquire into the probable economic effect of a limit of Eight Hours to the Working Day of Coal Miners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1767

COURT OF SESSION (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1868.—Copy presented, of Act of Sederunt to regulate Procedure in the Court of Session [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1768

COLONIES (GENERAL).—Copy presented, of Circular Despatch, dated 15th February, 1907, relative to the part taken by ex-Governors of Colonies in the organisation or direction of companies formed to operate in Territories which they were recently administering [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1768

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1859.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 16th March, 1907, removing the office of Assistant to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew from the operation of Section 4 of the Superannuation Act, 1859 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1768

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3752 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1768

DEER FORESTS (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, "of particulars of all Deer Forests and Lands exclusively devoted to sport in counties other than crofting counties in Scotland, in the following form :—

County.	Name of Deer Forest or other Subject.	Proprietor.	Acreage.	Rental as in Valuation Roll.

—(*Mr. Molteno.*) 1768

COMPULSORY NATIVE LABOUR (COLONIES).—Address for, "Return showing (a) the names of the various Colonies or British Possessions in which Compulsory Native Labour is employed, and upon what work, distinguishing the class of Native, namely, nationality or tribe ; (b) whether the Natives so employed are liable to be employed outside the districts in which they usually reside ; (c) the number of such Natives respectively ; (d) the conditions under which Natives so employed are housed or live, whether in fenced or enclosed areas or otherwise, also stating whether any restrictions are placed upon their individual liberty at times other than when they are engaged on their ordinary daily labour ; (e) what, if any, regulations exist and are in practice for the punishment of such Natives respectively for desertion or misconduct, stating the nature of the offence and punishment, and if such regulations and practice have had the sanction of the Government or governing authority of the Colony or Possessions ; (f) at what date and under what legal enactment, if any, the system was introduced."—(*Mr. Molteno.*) 1768

INSPECTORS OF MINES.—Address for "Return of the names and previous occupations or professions of the Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors who are now serving ; the dates of their appointment ; and the number of candidates who sat at the examinations when each was successful, in so far as the appointments have been filled by competitive examination."—(*Mr. Summerbell*) .. 1769

ARMY (COMMISSIONS).—Address for "Return as to the number of Commissions granted during each of the years 1885 to 1906 inclusive (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 153, of Session 1903)."—(*Mr. Pirie*) 1769

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP "RENOWN."—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing) ; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1769

SHIP LIBRARIES.—Question, Mr. Hart Davies (Hackney, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1769

IRISH LAND PURCHASE DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Nield ; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1770

SCOTTISH RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs) ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1771

LAND PURCHASE TRUSTEE.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1771

Mar. 27.] Page

COURTOWN HARBOUR.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1771

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1771

IRISH POTATO CROP FAILURE.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1772

DISTRIBUTION OF SEED POTATOES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1773

IRISH CO-OPERATIVE BANKS.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1773

GORTNAHOE EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1774

SCOTT AND CLEAVER ESTATE, ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1774

IRISH SCHOOL BUILDING GRANTS.—Questions, Mr. Dillon; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1775

MOUNT PLEASANT GRAZING FARM, WESTPORT.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1775

LOUGHREA IRISH INTERPRETER.—Question, Mr. Gwynn (Galway); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1776

IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1777

COST OF IRISH DEPARTMENTS.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1777

IRISH PETTY SESSION COURTS—GOOD FRIDAY SITTINGS.—Question, Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1777

MAGHERAGALLON PIER.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1778

JAMAICA SCHOOL BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1778

VALUATION OFFICE, DUBLIN—CLERKS.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1779

IRISH HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1779

IRISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL REVENUE.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1780

NAVAL PRIZES.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1780

SIMON'S BAY DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1781

"BRITANNIA" ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1781

IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO UPKEEP OF THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1781

POWER TO REMOVE NAVAL OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1782

NAVAL CASUALTIES.—Question, Captain Hervey (Bury St. Edmunds); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1782

COALS TO RUSSIAN SHIPS AT PORTSMOUTH.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1785

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1785

GROCERS' SPIRIT SALES.—Question, Mr. Arnold Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1785

BARONETS.—Question, Sir F. Banbury (City of London); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1786

TIN PLATES FOR CANADA.—Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1786

TESTS FOR COLOUR BLINDNESS.—Question, Mr. Henneker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1786

ABBEYFEALE RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1787

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FINANCE.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1787

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—Question, Sir F. Banbury; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 1787

HOUSE OF COMMONS POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1788

POST OFFICE AND EMPLOYER'S INSURANCE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1788

NEWSPAPER MISREPRESENTATION.—Question, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton); Answer, Sir Lawson Walton 1789

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Jenkins (Chatham); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1789

MILITIA OFFICERS FULL DRESS.—Question, Colonel Sandys (Lancashire, Bootle); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1789

IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO ARMY COST.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1789

WAR OFFICE SURVEYORS.—Question, Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1790

Mar. 27.] *Page*

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' LIABILITIES.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorks, E.R., Holderness); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1790

FOREIGN TRAWLERS OFF THE SOUTH COAST.—Question, Mr. Mildmay (Devonshire, Totnes); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1791

WOMEN ON LOCAL BODIES.—Question, Dr. Shipman (Northampton); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1791

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVAL COAL STORAGE EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr Lambert, Devonshire, South Molton) 1791

ADMIRALTY WORK AT THE ROYAL ARSENAL.—Question, Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answer, Mr. Lambert 1791

ROSYTH.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answers, Mr. Lambert 1792

BENTLY MOTOR TRAIN FACILITIES.—Question, Mr. Marnham (Surrey, Chertsey); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. 1792

PURCHASED DISCHARGES FOR THE ARMY.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1793

ROYAL ARSENAL WORKERS.—Questions, Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney), Mr. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars) and Mr. Crooks; Answers, Mr. Haldane 1793

LORD ESHER AND THE WAR OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1794

COST OF SOLDIERS' UNIFORMS.—Questions, Mr. Pike Pease, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answers, Mr. Haldane 1795

IRISH RECRUITS.—Question, Mr. Starkey (Nottinghamshire, Newark); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1795

INDIAN BIRD PROTECTION.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 1796

INDIAN CROPS—DAMAGE BY WILD ANIMALS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Charles Hobhouse 1796

INDIAN DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Charles Hobhouse 1796

ABAZAI GARRISON.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. Charles Hobhouse 1797

INDO-CHINESE RAILWAY SURVEY EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answer, Mr. Charles Hobhouse 1797

TRINIDAD INDUSTRIES AND WAGES.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) 1798

TRINIDAD IMMIGRANTS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. 1798

TRINIDAD BREACHES OF CIVIL CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1799

TRINIDAD CUSTOMS COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Harcourt, ... 1800

KOWLOON AND CANTON RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1800

ST. HELENA—UNEMPLOYMENT.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1801

FRANCO-SIAMESE TREATY.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1801

MUNICIPAL BORROWING IN THE UNITED STATES.—Questions, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1801

KIDNAPPING A BRITISH SUBJECT AT SALONIKA.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1802

CONSULATES IN PERSIA.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1802

MOROCCO DISTURBANCES.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1803

ASSAULT ON BRITISH SUBJECTS AT AMOY.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1803

WHISKY.—Questions, Mr. Lea, Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1803

STAMP DUTIES.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1804

INSPECTORS OF VIVISECTION.—Question, Mr. Smeaton; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1804

DEVON CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1805

LICENSING COMPENSATION.—Question, Mr. Maclean (Bath); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1806

THE CONVICT RAYNER.—Question, Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1806

RAILWAY RATES.—Question, Mr. Montagu (Cambridgeshire, Chesterton); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 1806

Mar. 27.] *Page*

ALIEN BANKRUPTS.—Question, Mr. W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1807

WASHBURN VALLEY AFFORESTATION SCHEME.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1808

VACCINATION RESULTS.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1809

SUSSEX VACCINATION CASE.—Questions, Mr. Lupton; Answers, Mr. John Burns 1810

THE GRANT FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.—Questions, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham), and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, Mr. John Burns 1810

NORWOOD POOR LAW SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. L. Haslam (Monmouth Boroughs); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1811

BOARDING-OUT OF PAUPER CHILDREN.—Questions, Mr. L. Haslam; Answers, Mr. John Burns 1811

CANADIAN POSTAGE RATES.—Questions, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury), and Sir Gilbert Parker; Answers, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1812

POST OFFICE INSURANCE.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1813

MERIONETHSHIRE SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1813

TEACHERS IN NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1814

HOUSE OF LORDS BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sunderland); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rosendale) 1815

WORCESTER ELECTION PETITION.—Question, Mr. Hemmerde (Denbighshire, E.); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1815

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.—Question, Colonel Herbert (Monmouthshire, S.); Answer, Sir John Walton 1815

GRAVESEND WATER-GUARD INSPECTOR.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 1816

DONCASTER LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. C. Nicholson (Yorks, W.R., Doncaster); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1817

BIRDS AND AGRICULTURE.—Questions, Mr. Montagu, Sir Philip Magnus (London University), and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1817

Mar. 27.] *Page*

SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.—Questions, Mr. Montagu and Mr. Molteno (Dumfriesshire); Answers, Sir Edward Strachey 1818

NORWEGIAN TRAWLERS.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1819

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1819

SCOTLAND AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—Questions, Mr. Murray Macdonald (Falkirk Burghs), Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs), Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1820

SCOTTISH GENERAL AID GRANT.—Question, Mr. Smeaton; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1821

ALNESS FERRY TENANCY DISPUTE.—Question, Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1841

TRAINING OF SCOTTISH TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1822

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC TEACHERS' PENSIONS.—Questions, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.), and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1822

BRITISH TRAWLERS UNDER FOREIGN FLAGS.—Questions, Mr. Morton and Mr. Stanley Wilson; Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1822

IRISH TRADE RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1823

IRISH FISHING BRAND.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1823

INCHIGEELA LETTER ROBBERY.—Questions, Mr. J. F. Mason (Windsor), Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1824

RINEEN FISHING INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1824

STEWARTSTOWN DISTURBANCES.—Questions, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. John Redmond; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1825

IRISH SCHOOL BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1826

EDUCATION REPORT.—Questions, Mr. Murphy, Mr. John Redmond; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1826

CIVIL RIGHTS OF IRISH TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1827

DONEGAL FISHERY BY-LAWS.—Question, Mr. Charles MacVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1827

EVICTIONS AT KINGSTON.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1828

Mar. 27.] *Page*

British Museum Reading Room.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1828

The Defence Committee.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1828

Lord Esher.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 1829

Small Holdings.—Questions, Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1829

Blocking Bills.—Question, Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1829

NEW BILLS.

Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties) Bill.—"To provide for the payment to the Fishery Board for Scotland of the penalties or other moneys recovered in respect of illegal sea fishing in Scotland," presented by Mr. Sinclair; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 145] 1830

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill.—"To regulate Whale Fisheries in Scotland," presented by Mr. Sinclair; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 146] 1830

Business of the House (Adjournment of the House) (Easter).

Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Motion for the Adjournment of the House (Easter), if under discussion when the business is postponed, be resumed and proceeded with, though opposed, after the interruption of business.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman*) 1830

Post Office (Liverpool and Hong Kong Mail Contract).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Contract, dated the 2nd day of February, 1907, with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the conveyance of the mails between Liverpool and Hong Kong, for the period from the 7th day of April, 1906, to the 6th day of April, 1908, printed in House of Commons Paper, No. 76, of Session 1907, be approved."—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

Mr. Harold Cox (*Preston*) 1831
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury*) .. 1836
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 1840
Mr. Ridsdale (*Brighton*) 1841
Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 1843
Mr. Herbert (*Buckinghamshire, Wycombe*) 1845
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 1846
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs*) 1847
Mr. Lyttelton (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) 1847
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 1848
Mr. Seaverns (*Lambeth, Brixton*) 1850
Mr. Guest (*Cardiff Districts*) 1850

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 161 ; Noes, 22. (Division List No. 99.)

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE (EASTER).

Motion proposed,—" That this House at its rising, this day, do adjourn until Monday the 8th April."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 1853
Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.) 1861
Mr. L. Haslam (Monmouth Boroughs) 1864
Mr. Masterman (West Ham, N.) 1863
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 1867
Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) 1868
The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1870
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 1881

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question, " That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising, this day, do adjourn until Monday the 8th April.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Whiteley*).

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair at twelve minutes past Eight o'clock, there being no other Government business before the House, and the sitting was suspended till a quarter past Eight.

OBSTRUCTIVE MOTIONS AND BILLS.

Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood) 1883
Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle) 1886

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That to put a Motion on the Order Paper of this House, or to introduce a Bill, so as to prevent discussion in this House of Motions for which precedence has been obtained in the ballot, or of definite matters of urgent public importance is hurtful to the usefulness of this House and an infringement of the rights of its Members."—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1887
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 1888
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, E.) 1889
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 1889
Mr. Morton (Sutherland) 1890
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 1891

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That to put a Motion on the Order Paper of this House, or to introduce a Bill, so as to prevent discussion in this House of Motions for which precedence has been obtained in the ballot or of definite matters of urgent public importance, is hurtful to the usefulness of this House and an infringement of the rights of its Members.—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made and Question, "That this House do not adjourn,"—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer,*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at eight minutes before Nine o'clock till Monday 8th April.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOLUME CLXXI.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 13th March, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BAINES' NAME BILL. [H.L.]

Moved, "That this Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I do not like to interfere in a matter of private concern, but I would like to ask the meaning of this Bill. If the machinery of Parliament is to be used in connection with every change that is made in a man's name, we shall be accumulating business about the merest trifles. I always understood that a person could change his name by inserting an advertisement in *The Times*, by deed poll, or by registration. To have the whole machinery of Parliament invoked in this way to enable a person to change his name strikes me as remarkable. I am sure the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees is not seized of any precise knowledge of this matter, but I should like to know if an Act of Parliament is really necessary in this case, and whether none of the other methods adopted every day in the week would have sufficed.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, I am sorry my noble and learned friend did not give me notice that he was going to raise this point and therefore enable me to place myself in a position to reply. Every private Bill contains a recital that the object of it cannot be obtained without the consent of Parliament, and unless that recital can be proved it is obvious that the Bill ought not to be further proceeded with. So far as I recollect the Bill—I read it in the month of December and have not looked at it since—it is not so much a question of name as a question of property. If this man cannot quite legally take the name he cannot hold the property, and the object of this Bill is not, as is commonly the case, to change a name, but to enable the person concerned to hold property which he could not otherwise legally possess. I am answering entirely off-hand, but I will look into the question more closely, and if I am satisfied that the object can be obtained without a Bill I shall certainly say the preamble has not been proved.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I am quite satisfied.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): I am certain the noble Earl the Lord Chairman will satisfy himself in the matter. Of course, if the change of name involves the acquisition of property and it cannot be done without an Act of Parliament, it means that, indirectly, Parliament is bestowing upon A property which would otherwise belong to B. That may disarrange the ordinary law. I do not say that it is so in this case, but I think it worth looking into.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Buckhaven Dock [H.L.].

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Barnsley, Wombwell, and Wath Tramways Bill [H.L.]. The order of Thursday last, referring the Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee, discharged.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee to continue sitting in the absence of the Viscount Iveagh.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Judgments of the Divisional Court, Court of Appeal, and House of Lords in *The Earl of Onslow.* the case of The King *v.* The County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

TREATY SERIES No. 9 (1907).

Agreement between the United Kingdom and Switzerland respecting commercial travellers' samples; signed at Berne, 20th February, 1907.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Report of the Board of Education, for the year 1905–1906, on the administration of schools under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT).

Order made by the council of the borough of Newport, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain shops within the borough.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILLS.

DENTAL COMPANIES (RESTRICTIONS OF PRACTICE) BILL [H.L.]. (No. 15.)

A Bill to prohibit joint stock companies from carrying on practice as dentists or dental surgeons except by means of duly qualified persons; and

PROHIBITION OF MEDICAL PRACTICE BY COMPANIES BILL [H.L.]. (No. 16.)

A Bill to prohibit joint stock companies from acting as physicians, surgeons, or medical practitioners; Were presented by the Lord Hylton; read 1^a; and to be printed.

THE HOLDING OF LAND IN SCOTLAND.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN rose to ask whether the Government would introduce in this House the Bill, promised in His Majesty's Speech, which was to deal with the holding of land in Scotland. The noble Earl said: My Lords, among the Bills which were promised in the Gracious Speech from the Throne was one affecting the holding of land in Scotland. That nomenclature is not very clear, but

I apprehend that it must refer to small holdings, because the Government indicated that the Bill passed last session in connection with the holding of land both in England and in Scotland contained the whole of their mind on that subject. I apprehend, therefore, that this Bill is one relating to small holdings in Scotland, and the remarks which I shall make will proceed on that supposition. I apprehend also that this Bill in some respects, at all events, will resemble the measure which is to be introduced for England.

When the other day my noble friend Lord Onslow asked that the English Bill should be introduced in this House the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, while recognising the great experience of your Lordships in this matter and your practical knowledge of and acquaintance with the subject, gave as his reason for refusing the request that public money was involved and that it was more usual to introduce Bills of that description in the other House of Parliament. Now, in this case, unless His Majesty's Government have entirely changed their minds during the last few months, I suppose the Scottish Bill will resemble the Bill introduced last August, which established a Land Court consisting of five Commissioners, who were to take over the management of all existing small holdings in Scotland and were also empowered to carve out small holdings in any part of Scotland in any number and in any place they might see fit. It was not proposed in that Bill to take any public money for the purchase of land, and indeed the Secretary for Scotland, when questioned on the subject, denied altogether that there was any such intention. Apparently, if that Bill were to become law the funds would be found by the existing owners of property in Scotland.

In these circumstances I do not think the arguments against introducing the English Bill in this House apply to the case of the Scottish Bill, and therefore I ask the noble Earl whether the Government will introduce the Bill in your Lordships' House. The Bill takes rather a back seat in the Gracious Speech, and I do not know what hopes His Majesty's Government may have of its becoming law in the present session. They have told us lately that their time will be fully occupied, and it is very possible that they may not think there is a very good chance of passing the Bill into law during this session. If they have any doubt on the subject, that is an additional reason for introducing the Bill in this House, because, as your Lordships know, a Bill is much better when it has been introduced more than once. There has then been ample time to examine all the details, and, generally speaking, a Bill which is passed after mature consideration extending over more than one session is found to work better than a measure passed in a hurry. I therefore ask the Question standing in my name.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, the noble Earl has reminded the House of the conversation that took place the other night when the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees asked whether it would not be possible for us to introduce our Small Holdings Bill for England into this House. I frankly admitted at the time, and I think it cannot be disputed, that the arguments which the noble Earl adduced for adopting that course were strong. The number of your Lordships who have special knowledge of the subject, and who are personally interested in it to a large extent, is very great, and it is also the fact that the Minister in charge of the Bill, my noble friend Lord Carrington, sits in this House. Consequently we fully admitted that the arguments were strong. On the whole, however, we thought, and still think, that in the circumstances the balance of advantage rested with the introduction of that measure in another place.

With regard to this measure the general arguments are surely not so strong for its introduction here. The proportion of noble Lords who have a special knowledge of and are specially interested in land in Scotland is not very large in relation to the whole of the Members of the House. I do not think it is probably as large as the proportion as those who are specifically acquainted with the subject in the House of Commons, and there is the further fact that the Minister responsible for the Bill sits in another place. Then the noble Earl based his argument partly on the ground that, whereas the English

Bill might be said to deal with public money, the same reason did not apply here. That is not the case. It is perfectly true that the Scottish Bill is in no sense a Land Purchase Bill, but I think when it is seen it will be found that a very considerable sum of public money will be required to carry its operations into effect.

Then the noble Earl asked whether it might not be advantageous, in view of the general pressure of business, to introduce this particular Bill in your Lordships' House, because he thought it was a measure which through lack of time might not have much chance of passing. As a matter of fact, I am informed that this particular measure will be introduced at a very early date in another place. It is practically one of the first measures likely to be introduced there, and it will, I conceive, reach your Lordships before the English Bill, although, of course, I cannot speak positively on that point. In these circumstances I am obliged to give a negative reply to the Question which the noble Earl has asked, I am bound to say, in very moderate and reasonable terms.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 13*th March*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 66 NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 66 has not been complied with, viz., South Wales Mineral Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz., Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bills.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Galwey's Divorce Bills [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill (by Order); Great Central Railway Bill (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

BRISTOL CORPORATION BILL (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) asked for some explanation of the Bill. Had it anything to do with dock dues and charging dues on the tonnage of vessels? That was a most important question on which the Government had not yet declared itself, and they ought to have some information before the Bill was read a second time.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.): The Bill does contain a clause about dues, but the promoters have agreed to take it out in Committee. The Board of Trade are satisfied with their undertaking and agree to the Second Reading.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham): Are the Board of Trade going to make any suggestion to the House on this matter?

MR. CALDWELL: On some other Bills the President of the Board of Trade will make a statement.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR: Am I to understand that any clause in this Bill dealing with the question of levying dues on the registered tonnage of vessels will be eliminated in Committee.

MR. CALDWELL: Certainly.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour:—From Alma; Bagworth; Bailey Brook; Balgonie; Birley; Birley (No. 2); Blackrod; Bruntcliffe; Buckhaven; Carlton Main; Coaltown of Wemyss; Corton Wood; Crossgates; Dearne Valley; Denbeath; Donibristle; Dronfield; Elsecar; Fence; Fordell; Hightown; Houghton Main; Hoyland; Ibstock; Langley and Marlpool; Langwith; Lassodie; Lea Green; Lidgett; Lochgelly; Lochore; Lofthouse; Low Laithes; Lumphinnans; Markham; Measham; Methil; Mithilkill; Nailstone; Netherton; Newmarket Silkstone; New Oaks; Normanton; Oakley; Oargreave; Rawdon; Renishaw Park; Reservoir; Roundwood; Sharlston; Shaw Cross and Chidswell; South Leicestershire; Stourton Grange; Sutton Heath; Syndale; Thornhill; Townhill; Udston; Upper Hartshay; Wakefield (Robin Hood Hood); Warreley; Wath Main; Wellsgreen; Wellwood; West Sharlston; and, York Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Woodham, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Rugeley, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th March; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 69.]

BOARD OF EDUCATION (WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION ACT, 1889).

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Education for the year 1905–6 on the Administration of Schools, under The Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 77.]

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st February; *Mr. Sloan*]; to lie upon the Table.

HARBOUR, ETC. BILLS (HULL AND BARNSLEY RAILWAY BILL).

Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

CROWN AGENTS.

Address for "Return showing the total amount, including loans, on which any commission was charged or received by the Crown Agents for the Colonies during 1904, 1905, and 1906, differentiating between (1) commercial, railway, and general business, and (2) financial, loan, and miscellaneous business; the total amount of commission charged or received in each year; and the separate totals debited and commission charged to each Colony and Protectorate in each of the said years (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 264, of Session 1904)."—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Persons Receiving Police Protection in Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of persons receiving constant police protection and special protection by patrols in each county in Ireland on the 1st March; the number of police employed on each of the branches of this duty, respectively; and what is the number of persons not included in this list to whom constant and special police protection was afforded in each county during the period from the 1st January 1906, to 1st February 1907, but from whom protection was withdrawn on the ground that necessity for it had ceased.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Inspector-General of Royal Irish Constabulary has furnished me with the following Return, showing (*a*) the number of persons receiving constant police protection and the number receiving special protection by patrol (*b*) the number of police employed affording constant protection on the 1st March 1907, and (*c*) the number of cases in which protection was withdrawn between the 1st January 1906 and the 1st February 1907—

Counties, &c.	(A) Cases on 1st March 1907.			(B) Number of Police affording Constant Protection.	(C) Cases withdrawn.		
	Constant.	By Patrol.	Total.		Constant.	By Patrol.	Total.
Antrim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Armagh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast City	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cavan	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Donegal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Down	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fermanagh	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Londonderry	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Monaghan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tyrone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carlow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dublin	—	—	—	—	—	40	40
Kildare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilkenny	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
King's	1	4	5	2	—	2	2
Longford	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Louth	—	12	12	—	—	1	1
Meath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queen's	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Westmeath	—	3	3	—	—	5	5
Wexford	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wicklow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galway, East Riding	5	29	34	23	4	10	14
,, West Riding	2	5	7	7	—	—	—
Leitrim	1	—	1	3	—	—	—
Mayo	1	8	9	4	1	8	9
Roscommon	2	1	3	4	—	9	9
Sligo	1	4	5	4	—	2	2
Clare	5	34	39	11	—	33	33
Cork, East Riding	9	14	23	21	2	23	25
,, West Riding	4	3	7	8	1	5	6
Kerry	13	11	24	26	11	1	12
Limerick	2	10	12	4	—	8	8
Tipperary, N. Riding	—	3	3	—	—	1	1
,, S. Riding	1	6	7	3	2	6	8
Waterford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	47	152	199	120†	23	155	178

† Eleven of these policemen are not solely employed in affording protection.

The American Mails—Proportion for North of England, Scotland and Ireland—Delay in Delivery.

Colonel PHILIPPS (Southampton): To ask the Postmaster-General, if he can state approximately how many of the 1,300 mail bags ordinarily brought over by the White Star mail boats are for Ireland, the North of England, and Scotland, how many for London and the South of England, and how many for the Continent.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The approximate numbers are as follows—

Ireland - - - -	100
Scotland - - - -	97
North Midlands and North West England - -	148
London - - - -	125
South England - -	26
England unsorted - -	104
Continent - - -	710

I am obtaining further information as to the amount of correspondence contained in the bags, which vary considerably in size.

Colonel PHILIPPS: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, under the new proposals for White Star Line sailings, there will be an acceleration of the home mails for the South and West of England and London; and, if so, whether, under these circumstances, he will before recommending any reversion to the old arrangements, carefully consider the great benefits accruing to London and the South of England under the new proposals.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) There will be an acceleration in the mails for the South and West of England and for London by the inward mail steamers; but there will be delay in the mails to various other parts of the United Kingdom, especially in the case of Scotland and Ireland. The whole question has been receiving my careful consideration.

Post Office Accommodation at Caldercruix, N.B.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that at Caldercruix, N.B., there is no accommodation for the sorting of correspondence, the work having to be done on the counter of a grocer's shop in the midst of other business; and whether he will take steps to procure suitable accommodation, in the interests of both the public and the staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will have inquiry made upon the subject and will acquaint the hon. Member with the result.

Dublin Postmen and Sorters' Examination.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General, if he has received a memorial from the postmen at Dublin complaining against their exclusion from the limited section at the male learners' examination to be held on 4th April by the introduction of a new age limit; and if he has arrived at any decision in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have received the memorial referred to. As I explained in an Answer to a Question from the hon. Member for College Green, Dublin, on the 3rd of December last,† postmen will not in future have to wait their turn on the learner class but will be allowed to compete for appointment direct to the class of sorting clerks and telegraphists. There are still some learners of long service waiting appointment at Dublin, and, when they have been provided for, a competition for places as sorting clerks and telegraphists limited to postmen and other persons employed by the Department will be arranged. The age limits will be eighteen and twenty-five, with extension in favour of those officers who have been employed from a time when they were under twenty-five. The successful candidates from that competition will rank for appointment before the learners admitted as a result of the January and April competitions.

Irish Land Purchase.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, how many estates were vested in the purchasers by the Estates Commissioners in the months of December 1906, January and February 1907, respectively; and what was the total amount of the purchase money.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The following Table gives the information asked for—

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvi., 738.

Class of Sale.	Month of December, 1906.		Month of January, 1907.		Month of February, 1907.		Total.	
	Number of Estates.	Amount of Advances made.	Number of Estates.	Amount of Advances made.	Number of Estates.	Amount of Advances made.	Number of Estates.	Amount of Advances made.
		£		£		£		£
Direct Sales - - -	46	347,271	34	168,643	44	373,400	124	889,314
Sections 6 and 8 - -	3	93,840	6	56,899	2	21,097	11	171,836
Section 7 - - -	3	39,209	2	3,680	4	10,928	9	53,817
Sections 72 and 79 -	3	16,550	2	4,663	3	33,852	8	55,065
Total - -	55	496,870	44	233,885	53	439,277	152	1,170,032

Welsh Education Department.

Mr. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): To ask the President of the Board of Education if the existing officers and clerks of the Board of Education, who are to work in the new Welsh Department under the new secretary, will continue to have access to, and be subject to supervision by, the permanent secretary and chief clerk of the Board; and whether the officers of the Welsh Department will be entitled to promotion in other branches of the office, and *vice versa*.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am not yet in a position to say how far it will be possible or expedient to assign a clerical staff exclusively to the work of the Welsh Department, but in any case the transfer of any officer to or from the Welsh Department will not be allowed to affect his prospects of promotion.

Imprisonment of Martin Hawes in Galway Gaol.

Captain CRAIG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man named Martin Hawes has recently been discharged from Galway gaol after eight weeks incarceration; and can he state the nature of the crime for which he was committed, the sentence pronounced and the number of convictions against him prior to the last trial.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) On 1st March, by order of the Lord-Lieutenant, Martin Hawes was discharged from Galway prison, after eight weeks and three days imprisonment. The offences for which he was committed were: (1) drunkenness; (2) assault on the police; (3) drunkenness and disorder; (4) drunkenness. The sentence for the assault was four calendar months imprisonment, and for the three other offences an aggregate of five weeks imprisonment in default of payment of fines. Hawes had been previously convicted forty-nine times.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Ellen Kiernan.

Mr. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Ellen Kiernan, Newtowngore, whose father, Francis Hamilton, was evicted from the Morley estate, in 1879, in the Poor Law union of Enniskillen and county of Cavan; and will he say when it is likely this tenant will be restored.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have received the application in question and have referred it, with others, to an inspector for inquiry. The Commissioners are not at present able to say when the case will be decided.

Age Retirement of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the Treasury made it a condition of the appointment of the present Comptroller and Auditor-General that he should retire at the age of sixty-five, such condition was made by the Treasury after consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown; or, if not, upon what authority such condition was based.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) Appointments to the office of Comptroller and Auditor-General are made by the Crown on the recommendation, not of the Treasury, but of the Prime Minister. Before his appointment, Mr. Kempe gave an undertaking to the then Prime Minister that he would retire from the office on attaining the age of sixty-five. It is not on record that the Law Officers of the Crown were consulted with reference to the matter, and there does not appear to be any legal power to enforce the undertaking.

Appointments to Staff of Colonial Audit Branch, Exchequer and Audit Department.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state how many clerical appointments were made in London to the Colonial Audit Branch of the Exchequer and Audit Department from its establishment in 1889 to the date of its reorganisation in 1906; and how many of these appointments were given by the respective comptrollers respectively to Second Division clerks, to University graduates, and to men neither graduates nor Second Division clerks, who were admitted without Civil Service examination.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The appointments in question were in the hands of the Comptroller and Auditor-General for the time being. The salaries of the officers appointed were not paid out of the British funds, and the Treasury has had no cognisance of or control over the appointments. I am, however, informed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General that the number of clerical appointments made was seventy-two, including five Second Division clerks, five other civil servants, and twenty-two University graduates.

Messengers and Clerks in the Board of Works Office, Dublin.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that in the Board of Works, Dublin, messengers are deputed to mark the officials late in the attendance book by the instructions of the Secretary, and that they avail of the opportunity thus given to them to show their resentment to members of the staff, who have had frequently to complain of their lack of respect; can he say if this is another scheme of the Secretary to inflict as much indignity as possible on the staff; and will he see that this practice is discontinued.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that for the last forty years it has been the duty of the head messenger to indicate in the attendance book all cases of clerks being more than fifteen minutes late in arrival. The Board of Works have received no complaint of any lack of respect on the part of the head messenger towards a member or members of the staff, and know of no foundation for the hon. Member's statement. Of course there is no justification whatever for the charge made against the Secretary.

The Edalji Case.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps His Majesty's Government propose to take in regard to the Edalji case.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I can only refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Gravesend on Thursday last, which was to the effect that a full statement had appeared in the press on the previous Saturday, 2nd March, and that the names of the three gentlemen who are examining the materials in the possession of the Home Office are the right hon. Sir Arthur Wilson, K.C.I.E., the right hon. J. L. Wharton, and Sir Albert de Rutzen, the Chief Magistrate of the Metropolitan Police Courts.

Great Northern Railway of Ireland—Second Class Accommodation on Motor Trains.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, what has been the result of his communications with the Great Northern Railway of Ireland with reference to the controversy between the company and their second-class season-ticket-holders on the want of second-class accommodation on their motor trains; whether he can say if there are any cases in England or Scotland where a railway company, having three classes on its ordinary trains, has only first and third classes on its motor trains; and what regulations are made in these cases for the carriage of second-class ticket-holders.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The company state that the motor service in question has been in operation over eighteen months, so that all holders of seasons tickets were aware, on taking their tickets, of the nature of the accommodation provided. They have also stated the number of trains and of motors, showing that together they provide an extended service. I am sending copies of the company's letters to the hon. Member and to the hon. Member for South Down. Several railway companies in Great Britain run motor cars on sections of their lines, either in substitution for or in addition to a service of ordinary trains conveying first, second, and third-class passengers. It is exceptional for such cars to afford accommodation for more than two classes of passengers and in most cases they afford it for one class only. The Board of Trade are making inquiry in regard to the conditions of issue of season tickets by railway companies in these cases, and I will inform the hon. Member of the result.

Registration of Limited Companies.

Mr. STEWART-SMITH (Westmoreland, Kendal): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state how many companies, limited by guarantee and using the word limited as part of their title, have been registered during each of the years 1895 to 1906, inclusive.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The number of companies limited by guarantee and using the word limited as part of their title registered during each of the years 1895 to 1906, inclusive is set out below:—

1895	57
1896	45
1897	44
1898	84
1899	58
1900	84
1901	42
1902	42
1903	38
1904	26
1905	45
1906	34

Free Church Appeals.

Mr. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the Lord Advocate what means of redress is open to the Free Church in the event of the Free Church desiring to appeal against any decisions of the Executive Commission.

(*Answered by Mr. Thomas Shaw.*) It is not within my competency to advise in a matter of this nature. I may, however, inform my hon. friend that by the provisions of the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, no court has power to review or interfere in any way with the orders or other proceedings of the Church Commission.

Filling of Vacancy on Scottish Church Executive Commission.

Mr. MARKHAM: To ask the Secretary for Scotland what steps the Government intend to take to fill up the vacancy on the Executive Commission caused by the death of Sir Charles Logan, as in the case of a division of opinion Free Church interests might be seriously affected.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The point is under consideration, but I am unable to make any statement at present.

Plan of Meeting of Free Church and United Free Church Assemblies.

Mr. MARKHAM: To ask the Lord Advocate if there is any reason why the mutual arrangement come to last year as to the place of meeting of the Free Church and the United Free Church assemblies respectively should not be made permanent.

(*Answered by Mr. Thomas Shaw.*) This would seem to be a matter between the churches concerned and the Church Commission, and it in no way comes within the purview of my department.

Gambling in Bank Shares on the London Stock Exchange.

Mr. FIELD: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that in the transactions on the London Stock Exchange the terms of Leeman's Act *re* bank shares transfers are openly violated; and whether he will take measures to ensure that the members of the London Stock Exchange shall be required to observe the safeguard imposed by law to prevent gambling in bank shares.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I have no information on the subject; but the effect of the Act is merely to invalidate certain contracts if entered into. If people choose to enter into such contracts there is nothing to prevent their doing so, but they do so at their own risk, since the contracts cannot be enforced. The Act imposes no penalty for entering into such contracts, unless there be false entries of numbers and names therein.

Wages of Carpenters and Joiners in Woolwich Arsenal.

Mr. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the wages paid to carpenters and joiners employed in the works department at the Woolwich Arsenal are a ½d. per hour below the standard rate of wages paid by private firms in the district, and that in the other departments a system of piecework prevails which prevents trade union workmen in this trade accepting employment therein; and whether he will consider this question, with the object of altering the conditions at present obtaining in the Arsenal, so that trade unionist carpenters and joiners may accept employment there without violating the rules of their various societies.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The rates of wages paid to carpenters and joiners in the ordnance factories are, when the benefits accruing from Government service are taken into account, considered equal to the rates current in the district. Working by piece-work is the custom whenever possible throughout the ordnance factories. There is no intention of making any change in the present conditions.

Strength of Horse and Field Artillery.

Captain CRAIG: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the strength of the Horse and Field Artillery by batteries, officers, men, and horses on 1st April, 1895, and 1st April, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Strength of the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery on the 1st April, 1895, and 1st April, 1905. :—

Date.	Batteries.	Officers.	Men.	Horses.
1/4/95	100, and 6 Depots.	597	17,592	10,808
1/4/05	178, and 9 Depots.	1,141	29,778	18,908

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Repairing Stations.

Mr. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will make close inquiries into the capacity for berthing and repairing warships of all dimensions in the various seaports and rivers on the east and west coasts, where ship-yards and steel-works at present exist, before any large sums of money are spent in uselessly duplicating such facilities at Rosyth.

The CIVIL LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Lambert, Devonshire, South Molton): The hon. Member may rest assured that every consideration will be given to his suggestion.

Civil Servants and the Territorial Force.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, under his Army reform scheme, Civil Servants will be allowed to enter the territorial force; and, if so, whether the Treasury will allow them extra leave for the purpose of going through the prescribed periods of training.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Haldane, Haddington): On military grounds the case of a Civil Servant entering the territorial force will require to be carefully considered on its individual merits, as public funds should not be expended in peace in training any persons whom the necessities of national business may make it impossible to spare from their duties in order to render military service in time of war. On the other hand, the Government, who are making an appeal to the nation to come forward, are not likely to be backward in doing what is right. I have not yet reached the stage of detailed negotiation on this important question, and I am, therefore, unable to answer further.

Army Reserve Figures.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the actuarial calculations, showing the total of the Army Reserve under normal conditions as 115,000 men, were based upon the same data as the calculations furnished to the House in July, 1906, in which it appeared that the total calculated Reserve for the infantry of the line was 62,900; and what reason is there to suppose that, after the abolition of another battalion of the Guards, the reduction of the Royal Artillery, and the substitution for that arm of a six years term of service, the Reserve of the Army other than that of the infantry of the line will reach 52,100 men.

MR. HALDANE: The statement which I propose to lay upon the Table will fully explain the mode of calculating the normal figures for the Army Reserve. I think the hon. and gallant Member will find all the information he desires in this statement.

Disbanded Line Battalions.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what was the date of formation of each of the eight line battalions recently destroyed; for what period were those battalions recruited on the basis of a three years colour service; and what number of men have passed from the battalions in question into the Army Reserve since their formation.

MR. HALDANE: The dates of formation were as follows:—3rd Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers, February, 1900; 4th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers, February, 1900; 3rd Batt. Manchester Regiment, February, 1900; 4th Batt. Manchester Regiment, February, 1900; 3rd Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regiment, April, 1898; 4th Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regiment, February, 1900; 3rd Batt. Lancashire Fusiliers, April, 1898; 4th Batt. Lancashire Fusiliers, March, 1900. Enlistment for three years colour service commenced in April, 1898, and three years men were enlisted for these regiments as well as the others until this period of enlistment was stopped in November, 1904. As regards the Reserve, as all transfers to the Reserve are from the regiment as a whole, it would not be practicable to obtain the information required without very considerable labour.

Insolvency of Arbuthnot and Company.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that injury is being caused to British credit in Southern India by the disclosures in connection with the insolvency of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company, of Madras; that certain native creditors are opposing the insolvent firm's petition for protection under the Insolvency Act on the ground that the firm have been in a state of virtual insolvency for some years; that these creditors have begged for a searching inquiry by the Crown in the interests, to use their own words, of truth and justice, of public morality, and British honour; and whether, under the exceptional circumstances, he will consider the advisability of instructing the Government of India to undertake a public inquiry independently of the proceedings of the local court.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. HOBHOUSE Bristol, E.): The inquiry held by the Madras Insolvency Court is a public inquiry. The Secretary of State sees no reason at present for instituting an inquiry independent of this.

Lahore Press Prosecution.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state the nature of the offence for which the proprietor and editor of the Panjabee, published in Lahore, have been sentenced, the former to two years imprisonment and a fine of £60, the latter to six months imprisonment and a fine of £6.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: The offence is reported to have been one under the section of the Indian Penal Code which deals with promoting, or attempting to promote, feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of His Majesty's subjects. The case is under appeal.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) May I ask if there was any circumstance of extenuation in this false charge of murder, except that it was brought against an innocent Englishman?

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I think it would be very improper for me to attempt to pronounce an opinion on any case which has yet to be decided by the Judges.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): Has the hon. Gentleman heard the result of the appeal?

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: No, Sir; as soon as I do I will communicate it to my hon. friend.

MR. DOLAN: Is the Indian law as to freedom of the Press the same as that in England?

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE asked for notice of the Question.

Johannesburg Immorality Prosecutions.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a case recently before Mr. Graham Cross in the E Court at Johannesburg, in which Emma Grovernor (a coloured woman), Martha Muller and John Jacobs (whites), William John Matthews (coloured), and two Chinamen named Wee Chang Juen and Lu Te Sing were charged with a contravention of the Immorality Law, in keeping a brothel at No. 8, Fox Street; whether he is aware that evidence was given to the effect that between two and three hundred Chinamen had been seen waiting in the back-yard of the house, being admitted two at a time to a room in which the two women were; that Wee Chang Juen was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment and ten lashes, and the two whites and the coloured woman were committed for trial; and whether he will state if the trial of the committed prisoners has yet taken place; and, if so, with what result.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): No, Sir. I have not seen the report in question.

General Botha.

MR. LEHMANN (Leicester, Market Harborough): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies a Question, of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether any reply has been received to the invitation sent to General Botha by His Majesty's Government to attend the Colonial Conference.

MR. CHURCHILL: A telegram has been received from Lord Selbourne as follows:—"Prime Minister informs me that the Cabinet have unanimously decided that General Botha ought to accept the invitation to attend the Colonial Conference. He will accordingly attend, and will be accompanied by Mr. F. W. Beyers, member of the Legislative Assembly for Turffontein, who will act as interpreter and secretary, and two other gentlemen who have not yet been decided on."

New Hebrides Expenditure.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the details of the sum of £7,000, to be voted during the next financial year, for the Anglo-French Convention connected with the New Hebrides.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is impossible to give details at present, as it is not yet known when the Convention will come into operation and, moreover, a considerable part of the sum to be voted is to cover expenditure the precise amount of which has still to be settled in consultation with the French Government. The main purposes for which expenditure may be necessary during the next financial year are the salaries of the members of the Joint Court, and other officers, such as labour inspectors, and the provision of Government buildings as required by Article III. of the Convention.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Has the money yet been paid?

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir.

Russo-Japanese Convention.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Russo-Japanese draft Convention contains a clause binding the two contracting Powers to refer to arbitration all future disputes without reservation; and whether The Hague tribunal has been accepted as the arbitrating authority.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir EDWARD GREY): This is a question on which it would be impossible for any Government other than the two concerned to say anything.

Anglo-Russian Convention.

MR. SMEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the draft Anglo-Russian Convention has been acquiesced in by the Persian Government; to what extent it safeguards British interests in the Persian Gulf on the gulf littoral and in the gulf hinterland; and whether there is any clause binding the two contracting Powers to refer all or any future disputes in the Middle East to arbitration.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend can say nothing about negotiations with Russia or any other Power which are not concluded.

Portuguese Tariff on Imported Fish.

MR. ESSLEMONT (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that the Portuguese Government has decided to impose a prohibitive duty on fish landed at Portuguese ports by British fishing vessels; and, if so, whether he will make representations to the Portuguese Government on the subject with a view to having these duties withdrawn or reduced.

MR. RUNCIMAN: A Bill is now before the Portuguese Cortes relative to an increase in the duty on the imports of fresh fish landed by foreign vessels. His Majesty's Government have already made representations to the Portuguese Government as to the effect of the proposed measure on British interests.

The Hague Conference.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the representatives of Great Britain at The Hague Conference will have any power to bind the country by any engagements regarding the strength of its armaments.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Nothing can yet be said about the instructions which will be given to the British delegates at the Conference.

Income Tax on Easter Offerings.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in spite of the judicial decision in the case of Cooper *v.* Blakiston, the Board of Inland Revenue are still demanding through their officers in various parts of the country the payment of income tax by the clergy upon Easter offerings; and, if so, what is the justification for this course.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): The case of Cooper *v.* Blakiston is being carried to the Court of Appeal, and meanwhile it is not desirable to give to it any wider application than may be absolutely necessary. Whether or no it should be applied to any particular case must depend upon the precise circumstances of the case, and upon the view taken of them by the District Commissioners of Income Tax. But, wherever the Commissioners consider it right to do so, the Board of Inland Revenue have instructed their surveyors to allow matters to remain in suspense, pending a decision by the Court of Appeal.

Clerkenwell Sessions.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the statements of the chairman at the Clerkenwell Sessions that every year about 500 men and women were dealt with at these sessions who were guilty of no definite offence, but were people who loafed about the streets, could not or would not work, and were people on whom existing prison treatment had no good effect; and whether in view of the cost to the country generally from this treatment, his Department can recommend more beneficial and reformative methods of treatment which would include assured and useful forms of work for the class referred to.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): This matter was fully considered by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Vagrancy, to whose Report I must refer the hon. Member. It involves large and important questions which require, and are receiving, the careful consideration of the Departments concerned. I quite agree that it is desirable if possible to find a better way of dealing with this class of cases.

Assistant Inspectors of Factories.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the position of assistant inspector of factories is subject to competitive examination; how many assistant inspectors are there; how many assistant inspectors of factories have been appointed during the three years last past; and when will candidates for this position be called up again, and for how many vacancies.

MR. GLADSTONE: The post of factory inspector's assistant is usually filled up by a competitive examination among a certain number of candidates nominated by the Home Secretary. There are now forty assistants. One was appointed in 1904 to fill a vacancy caused by retirement, and four additional appointments were made in 1906. The date of the next examination depends on the occurrence of a vacancy, and I cannot say for certain when that will be.

Rate Summons Fees.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the charges made for summonses for non-payment of borough rates vary in the Metropolitan boroughs, the practice in some boroughs being to charge 6d. or 1s., whilst in others as much as 2s. 6d. or 3s. 6d. is charged; will he consider the expediency of taking steps to secure a uniform system; in what way are these charges accounted for; and whether he will consider the practicability of discontinuing them.

MR. GLADSTONE: All I can say is that in the Table of Fees for Justices' Clerks in force in the county of London, the authorised fee for complaint, summons, and hearing in a rate case is 1s. where the sum involved is under 40s., and 2s. where it is above 40s. I have no information as to the charges mentioned in the Question, but if the hon. Member brings any specific cases to my notice I will make further inquiry.

The Wreck of the "Berlin."

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the steamship "Berlin" was carrying bags of vegetable or animal oil and a vessel of an approved pattern for distributing it in the water in rough weather, as required by the provisions of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894; if so, whether it was used for the purpose of saving lives after the wreck of the steamer; and what is the depth of water in the Hook of Holland harbour.

MR. WEIR: I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade in view of the recent wreck of the steamship "Berlin" at the Hook of Holland and the loss of many lives, will he consider the expediency of taking such action as may be necessary to require all steamers to be equipped with an apparatus or wave subduer for the distribution of oil on broken seas during stormy weather.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I will reply to the hon. Member's Question and to that of my hon. friend the Member for Ross and Cromarty at the same time. As the House is aware, a formal investigation into the circumstance of the lamentable wreck of the "Berlin" has been ordered, and pending the result of that inquiry, I do not think it would be expedient for me to refer to any matters bearing on the case. The matters referred to in the Question are of a nature which might be considered at the inquiry.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: Can the right hon. Gentleman state the depth of the water?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am afraid I cannot.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): Does the right hon. Gentleman possess any power to secure that approaches to harbours used in this cross-channel traffic shall be adapted to the steamers using them.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have no power at all in foreign waters.

German Tariff on Welsh Slates.

*MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what were the objections raised by Welsh slate quarry proprietors to the German tariff of 1906; what representations were made to the German Government in view of these objections; what concessions were ultimately accorded; and how does the new duty on slates obtained as the result of these negotiations compare with the rates before the present German tariff came into operation.

I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the value of the exports of Welsh slates to Germany in each of the last five years.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Welsh slate quarry proprietors objected to the provision in the new Conventional German tariff that blue or grey slates of less than five millimetres in thickness must be punched with a hole at a certain distance from the edge in order to claim admittance at the reduced rate of sixty-five pfennigs applicable to roofing slate, and to avoid the higher rate of one mark applicable to table slates. If this provision had been put into operation it would have seriously handicapped Welsh slates in competition with Austrian. As the result of representations made to the German Government, the regulation objected to has been withdrawn, and practically the whole of the roofing slates exported are now admitted at the lower rate. Full particulars are given in the Board of Trade Journal for 27th December, 1906. The rate of duty on roofing slates under the old German tariff was fifty pfennigs.

Statement of the registered exports of slates of British and Irish manufacture from the United Kingdom and from Welsh Ports to Germany, during the years 1902–1906 inclusive, showing the quantity and value—

Years.	From the United Kingdom including Welsh Ports.		From Welsh Ports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons	£	Tons	£
1902 -	24,851	99,958	24,841	99,918
1903 -	19,977	83,714	19,925	83,519
1904 -	18,918	81,660	18,917	81,640
1905 -	17,206	74,001	17,206	74,001
1905 -	15,657	66,242	15,655	66,230

Slates exported from ports in Wales may be regarded as Welsh slates.

*MR. REMNANT: Is it not the fact that whereas the tariff was 5s. per ton, it is now 6s. 7d.?

MR. LLOYD GEORGE: I have said it has been raised from fifty to sixty-five pfennigs.

Canadian Wheat Exports.

*MR. REMNANT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that in the twelve months ending 30th June, 1905, the combined exports of wheat from Canada and the United States to the United Kingdom amounted to 15,187,000 bushels, whereas the combined imports into the United Kingdom in the same period from these two countries amounted to 17,007,000 bushels; and whether he can explain the discrepancy of 10 to 12 per cent. in these figures.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The figures stated by the hon. Member for the export of wheat to the United Kingdom from the United States and Canada combined are not correct. They should have been 500,000 bushels greater. The hon. Member has ignored the exports of United States wheat, *via* Canada, and of Canadian wheat *via* United States, and also the difference between the American and the British bushel. The remaining discrepancy between the correct figures and those of the recorded imports into the United Kingdom from Canada and the United States combined is probably due mainly to the diversion of floating cargoes.

Unexploited Markets.

*MR. REMNANT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether for the advantage of the traders of this country and of the unemployed, he will now state what markets there are yet remaining to be exploited for our commerce.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: All available information as to new openings for British goods is published from time to time in the Board of Trade Journal, or when confidential, is communicated direct to Chambers of Commerce and others interested.

*MR. REMNANT: Surely the right hon. Gentleman can give a more definite Answer than that. He stated the other day, in his speech at Nottingham, that there were vast markets not yet exploited for our commerce.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now arguing the matter.

Canadian Preference.

SIR GEORGE SCOTT ROBERTSON (Bradford, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been drawn to the proposal in the Canadian House of Commons to limit the preference in British goods to those landed in Canadian ports; and if he can form any estimate of the relative amount of goods passing through Canada in bond for places in the United States, with the amount of goods passing through the United States in bond to places in Canada.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am aware that a proposal of this nature has been made. I cannot give any estimate with regard to the value of goods passing in bond through Canada for the United States, or *vice versa*, but the value of re-exports of imported merchandise from Canada to the United States in the year 1905–6 is stated in the Canadian returns to have been £1,347,000, including the goods transhipped at Montreal for the United States. The total value of merchandise imported into Canada from other countries, *via* the United States, is stated in the same returns to have been £5,331,000.

Railway Freights for Furniture.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will say what is the usual rate of insurance charged by railway companies, say the London and North Western Railway, the Great Western Railway, and the Great Northern Railway, upon furniture; do these companies require furniture imported from Ireland to be differently packed from the same article offered for carriage in England.

I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade, if he will say whether a clearance house rate of £5 10s. per ton, 5s. 6d. per cwt., is charged by railway companies on the carriage of furniture and such commodities booked over their lines in Great Britain and Ireland; is he aware that any fraction over a ton is charged at the rate for one and a-half tons, and that any fraction over the one and a half tons is charged for at the rate of two tons; and will he say whether, seeing that this system has the effect of raising this particular freightage charge, he will make representations to the railway companies with a view to securing more equitable treatment in this connection.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am having inquiry made as to the points raised in the Questions of the hon. Member with reference to the carriage of furniture, and will inform him of the result.

Unemployed Fund.

MR. HADDOCK (Lancashire, North Lonsdale): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if the whole of the £200,000 voted for the unemployed has been expended; and, if not, to what object the balance will be devoted.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The whole of the Grant has not been spent. Any sum remaining unexpended on the 31st instant will be surrendered to the Exchequer. In the meantime, I am continuing to deal with applications made to me by the local bodies under the Unemployed Workmen Act.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): How much of the grant has been applied to the relief of the unemployed in Ireland?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: £10,000.

Unemployment in Manchester.

Mr. CLYNES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that nearly 700 names are at present on the Manchester unemployed register; that less than 100 of these are attached to the building trade, and that, with the limitations of the Unemployed Act, the distress committee can find work for only a small number each month; and whether having now declined to propose any Amendment of the Act, notwithstanding that such Amendment was previously promised, he can state that he has other methods to recommend whereby local authorities may better deal with unemployment.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I have seen a statement to the effect that at the end of January last there were 687 persons on the labour register at Manchester. It rests with the distress committee to propose schemes for the provision of work for the unemployed, and in October last I expressed my willingness to consider an application from them for a payment out of the Grant; but it is only recently that I have received any such application.

Mr. CLYNES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the register of unemployed represents but a very small proportion of the total number unemployed, and that the distress committee, with the present limitation under the law, find it absolutely impossible to provide work for them?

Mr. BURNS: I can only deal with the names on the register. On October 12th I sent a circular to the Manchester Committee offering a grant. On February 25th I received a reply containing a representation as to a certain farm colony, but I asked for details which I believe are being obtained for me.

London Unemployed.

Mr. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the fact that the appeal for funds issued by the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, as well as those sent out by other distress committees, have been ineffectual in consequence of there being a balance of the £200,000 Grant still remaining in the hands of his Department, he will consider the advisability of disbursing that balance in grants to the various committees in order that they may do the work they were appointed to do but which they are now prevented from doing by want of means.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: If the distress committee of any district in which there is exceptional distress apply to me at once for a payment out of the Grant, and submit a definite scheme of useful work, I shall be prepared to consider it; but I could not undertake to distribute the balance of the Grant amongst the committees generally.

Unemployed Workmen Acts—Qualification for Assistance.

Mr. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been directed by the Norwich Distress Committee to the case of William George Jex, who was discharged from the 3rd Rifle Brigade at Devonport on 28th July, 1906, after serving six and a-half years with a character marked very good, and who is regarded as not possessing the necessary residential qualification for assistance under the Unemployed Workmen Act, though, with the exception of his term of Army service, he has resided all his life in the city; and whether, having regard to the hardship thus placed upon men who have served their country, he will take early steps to remove the restriction, thereby enabling such men to participate under the Act.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: My attention has been called to the case mentioned, but I am not empowered to remove the restriction referred to in the Question, as this is imposed by the Act.

Societies Journals Postage Rates.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will make such alterations as are necessary to enable royal and other societies to send their weekly, monthly, or quarterly journals through the post at the uniform charge of ½d.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I regret that I do not see my way to introducing the fresh legislation which would be necessary in order to bring them within the registered newspaper post.

Pose Office Service Rules.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what book of rules was referred to by the Secretary of the Post Office on the 20th July, 1906, when he stated before the Post Office Servants' Committee that the general book of rules is accessible to everyone in the service; and whether all Post Office officials have free acess to such book of rules without making written application.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The reference quoted by the hon. Member was to the book of "Rules for Head Postmasters and other officers of the Post Office." This book should be accessible to all members of the Post Office Service without written application.

Battle Post Office Staff.

MR. COURTHOPE: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what increase has taken place in the number of the Post Office staff at Battle, Sussex, during the last ten years; and what is the greatest number on duty at that office at any one time.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Since 1898, when payment of a fixed salary and allowances for assistance were introduced at Battle, Sussex, in lieu of payment by commission, there has been an increase of one—making four altogether—in the number of assistants employed indoors. There has been no change in the last ten years in the number of postmen employed. The greatest number of officers on duty at any one time is thirteen—ten postmen and three indoor officers.

Education Code for Wales.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Code of the Board of Education will be applicable to the newly-constituted Welsh Department of the Board; and, if so, whether questions which now arise as to the construction of the Code will be determined by the Permanent Secretary at Whitehall or the Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Department.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The Code will continue to apply to Wales unless and until it is thought advisable to establish a separate Code of Regulations for Elementary Schools in Wales. Questions as to the construction of the Code, like all other questions arising out of the Board's administration, whether in England or Wales, will be determined by me or on my responsibility.

Welsh Education Department.

MR. COURTHOPE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the Secretary of the new Welsh Department will be subordinate to the Permanent Secretary of the Board.

MR. MCKENNA: The Answer is in the negative.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the existing officers and clerks of the Board of Education, who are to work in the new Welsh Department under the new secretary, will continue to have access to, and be subject to supervision by, the Permanent Secretary and Chief Clerk of the Board; and whether the officers of the Welsh Department will be entitled to promotion in other branches of the office, and *vice versa.*

MR. MCKENNA: I am not yet in a position to say how far it will be possible or expedient to assign a clerical staff exclusively to the work of the Welsh Department, but in any case the transfer of any officer to or from the Welsh Department will not be allowed to affect his prospects of promotion.

Scottish Ecclesiastical Assessments.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of this House having declared itself in favour of the immediate abolition of ecclesiastical assessments in Scotland by a large majority, in which Scottish opinion was represented by thirty-five votes to six, the Government can now state what steps they propose taking to give effect to such an expression of Scottish views and to relieve Scotland of this long-standing grievance.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): As my hon. friend is aware, the terms of the Resolution moved by the Member for East Edinburgh upon this subject were assented to by the Lord Advocate on behalf of the Government, but I am unable to give any undertaking now in regard to legislation.

Tweed Fishery Rights.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if any action has been taken on the recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tweed Fishery Acts that persons claiming exclusive rights to fishing in parts of the rivers and streams should be called on to prove their title by production of charters or other muniments.

MR. SINCLAIR: In the years 1896 and 1897 some investigation was made by the Commissioners of Woods into some of the titles to salmon fishings in the River Tweed as to which there seemed to be a doubt. The investigation, as far as it was carried, did not warrant claims being made by the Crown, and having regard to the probable value of the fishings as to which further information was desired and the expense which further investigation would have involved it was considered undesirable to press the inquiry further at the time.

Prosecution of Moray Firth Trawlers.

MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if the masters of all vessels found trawling in the Moray Firth will be prosecuted.

MR. SINCLAIR: Yes, if they are British subjects.

Scottish National Galleries — Board of Trustees.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that, under the Act of last year, the Board of Trustees to manage the National Galleries of Scotland must be established by the 1st April, is he yet in a position to announce the names of the chairman and members of the Board.

MR. SINCLAIR: No, Sir.

Crofter Leaseholders.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state what steps he proposes to take to prevent crofter leaseholders from being evicted pending the consideration of the promised Bill to amend the Crofters' Act of 1886.

MR. SINCLAIR: I strongly deprecate any action of the kind referred to by my hon. friend. Pending the introduction of the Bill, however, I am not in a position to give any undertaking.

Island of Lewis Common Grazings.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that large areas of the crofters common grazings in the island of Lewis are absolutely valueless for grazing purposes, being merely skinned land from which the peat has been removed; and will he consider the expediency of introducing a clause into the promised Crofters Act (1886) Amendment Bill to render such land available for the erection of fishermen's dwellings.

MR. SINCLAIR: The point shall be considered.

The Arbroath Disaster.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the sentence of five months imprisonment passed on Driver Gourlay at Edinburgh yesterday in connection with the Arbroath disaster; and whether, in view of the absence of unanimity among the jury, of their recommendation of leniency, the extenuating circumstances under which the accident took place, and the advanced age of Gourlay, he will consider the advisability of revising or remitting the sentence.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said he had received last evening a telegram on the subject of this trial. Substantially the hon. Member's Question accurately narrated the conviction and the recommendation of the jury. It was not within his province to deal with the revision or remittance of the sentence, but he had mentioned the matter to his right hon. friend the Secretary for Scotland, to whom, perhaps, the hon. Member would put a specific Question on the point.

Moray Firth Trawlers.

MR. STANLEY WILSON asked the Secretary for Scotland what arrangement had been made with Norway with regard to their withdrawal of trawling rights in the Moray Firth; and whether it was the intention of the Government to maintain the three-mile limit as now defined.

MR. SINCLAIR said the first part of the Question should be addressed to the Foreign Office, which was in communication with the Norwegian Government in reference to the situation which had arisen in regard to the Moray Firth. The three-mile limit was not in question.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Is the Scottish Office acting in sympathy with the Foreign Office in this question?

MR. SINCLAIR: No doubt the Government is acting as a whole.

MR. CHARLES WILSON (Hull, W.) asked if the Government had considered the probability of foreign countries retaliating by closing considerable tracts of fishing ground if this policy of protection was continued.

MR. SINCLAIR: That and all other considerations will no doubt be attended to.

MR. PIRIE asked if the Government with regard to this question would give due attention to the protests from numerous big fishing centres in the world against the action of the Government.

MR. WEIR asked that attention should also be given to the protests from the line fishing industry, also a large one.

MR. FERENS (Hull, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that 1,000 steam trawlers go out of the Humber——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! Notice should be given of that Question.

Westmeath Untenanted Lands.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that nearly all the untenanted land in Westmeath, outside of desmesnes, is evicted land; that many of the young men reared upon uneconomic holdings are descendants of tenants evicted from the better lands, and have hoped to be enabled to remain in Ireland as purchasers of new holdings on those lands at prices to be fixed by the Estates Commissioners; and, seeing that the Act of 1903 in more than three years working has done nothing to this end, and the emigration season is again approaching, can he hold out any hope of dealing with the problem this session.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I informed the hon. Member yesterday of the steps which the Estates Commissioners are taking for the acquisition of untenanted land in Westmeath. The Commissioners are not aware how far the statements contained in the Question may be correct, but, as the hon. Member knows, their powers as to the classes whom they may provide with land are strictly limited by the statute. The Commissioners, when distributing land, fully consider the claims of all qualified persons. I hope to be able to deal with the problem during this session.

Land Act Administration Officials.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, having regard to the fact that Land Commissioners, Sub-Commissioners, assessors, valuers, and inspectors of land, whose findings affect the property and livelihood of two important sections of the community engaged in litigation with each other, have hitherto been almost exclusively nominees of one of those sections, to the detriment of the other section, and competent men of character have been excluded from even nomination, will he take advantage of the present opportunity to inaugurate, in appointing to all these positions, a system of public advertisement and competitive examination, subject to impartial rules analogous to those in force in other branches of the public service.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the prevalent dissatisfaction with the system of official land valuing which has been twenty-six years in operation in Ireland, and the approaching revision of the staff engaged in this work, will he throw this branch of the public service open to all competent men of character and practical experience, irrespective of creed and politics, by establishing a system of appointment as a result of impartial public examination; and, if he cannot do this, will he state what the objection is.

MR. BIRRELL: The Answer to both of these Questions is in the negative. I should be glad if some system could be devised whereby the Government would be relieved of the doubtful boon of patronage in these cases, but I am afraid that a system of competitive examination would not be appropriate.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): Have the Government abandoned the principle of qualifying examinations for these Land Commission appointments?

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Is knowledge of the value of land deemed to be one of the main qualifications?

MR. BIRRELL: Certainly. I can conceive no other more important. If a qualifying examination is found to be useful we shall not abandon it.

MR. MOORE: But it was abandoned last year for the first time.

MR. BIRRELL: The question is under consideration.

Evicted Tenants—Number of Claims for Reinstatement.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of persons purporting to be evicted tenants who have made claims for reinstatement under the Land Act of 1903 to date.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications from 7,156 persons who seek reinstatement as evicted tenants.

Heirs of Evicted Tenants.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the four sons of an evicted tenant, who has died since his eviction, are to be regarded by the Estates Commissioners as four evicted tenants; and if four farms will be provided for them.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners hold that under Section 2 (1) (d) of the Act of 1903 they have no power to make advances to four sons of an evicted tenant. They may nominate one son or other person as the representative of a deceased evicted tenant.

Irish Land Purchase.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many estates were vested in the purchasers by the Estates Commissioners in the months of December, 1906, January and February, 1907, respectively; and what was the total amount of the purchase money.

MR. BIRRELL: The total number of estates vested in purchasers during the three months mentioned was 152, and the amount of the advances made, £1,170,032. I will furnish with to-night's Votes a tabular statement, showing for each month the figures in respect of each class of sale.†

Evicted Tenants Statistics.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state, of the total number of evicted tenants in Ireland who have made claims for reinstatement, how many were dispossessed of their holdings under judgments obtained by merchants and creditors other than landlords, and for causes of action other than rent.

MR. BIRRELL: The total number of applicants is 7,156. The Estates Commissioners have no knowledge as to how many of these applicants were dispossessed of their holdings at the instance of persons other than landlords.

Sir Horace Plunkett.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Sir Horace Plunkett, the Vice-President of the Agricultural Department in Ireland, was absent from his duties for upwards of two months in America; did he ask permission for thus absenting himself, and, if so, from whom and on what grounds; by whom were Sir Horace Plunkett's duties discharged in his absence; and why is the privilege of being absent from duties, which he is paid to discharge, granted to Sir Horace Plunkett while not extended to other members of the Civil Service.

---

† See col. 14.

MR. BIRRELL: Sir Horace Plunkett's visit to the United States extended from 6th December to 26th January. It was made during his annual holiday and did not exceed the amount of leave to which he is officially entitled. Nearly half of his stay in the United States was devoted to inquiries made on behalf of his Department at the Department of Agriculture and other public offices in Washington, at Agricultural colleges in four States, and at several technical institutions. His duties are discharged in his absence by the secretary of the Department. These arrangements are approved by the Chief Secretary for the time being.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: When does the right hon. Gentleman intend to grant Sir Horace permanent leave of absence?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Resident Magistrates.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what, if any, are the qualifications for the position of resident magistrate in Ireland, and what steps are taken to secure that candidates selected for appointment to that position shall be persons of unblemished character; whether he is aware that a person was appointed by the late Government to an Irish resident magistracy shortly after his dismissal with ignominy from a corps in Cape Colony for the embezzlement of the money of private soldiers entrusted to him for transmission to their relations at home, that this person formed one of a court of resident magistrates, specially constituted under the Crimes Act, by which forty-eight persons, some of whom were Catholic priests and Irish Nationalist Members of Parliament, were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and were in charge of the police or military on the occasion of a collision between the forces of the Crown and the people, in which these civilians lost their lives; and whether he will give an assurance that the persons appointed to the position of resident magistrate will only be appointed after a strict investigation of their previous careers.

MR. BIRRELL: No qualifications for the position of resident magistrate in Ireland are prescribed by statute or otherwise, but in making appointments the Lord-Lieutenant selects gentlemen of whose competency to hear and determine cases in Courts of summary jurisdiction he is satisfied. In making such appointments the Irish Government utilise any sources of information which may be at their disposal in each individual case, in order to ensure that the person appointed is qualified in all respects, including character. The concluding part of the Question appears to relate to an appointment made in 1886 and terminated in 1889. I find that this case was fully discussed in this House in 1888 and 1889, and I would refer the hon. and learned Member to the Parliamentary Debates of those years for full particulars.

Leitrim Boycotting Trial.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Bradys, the boycotted persons for attacking whom certain persons were indicted at the recent Leitrim assizes, were unable to get supplied with shelter, food, or drink in the county town where the assizes were held during the trial; were the police and Crown solicitor unable to procure any person in the town willing to relieve their wants; has he received any Report from the police on this matter; are the Bradys under constant police protection by night and day; were they attacked on the road, and some provisions they had obtained in a remote village forcibly taken from them and destroyed; and has any person been punished for the various outrages committed on these people.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that on the occasion mentioned the persons referred to were unable to obtain a lodging in the assize town elsewhere than in the police barracks. They were able, however, to obtain food supplies in the town. They are under constant police protection. As regards the two concluding inquiries, eight men are still awaiting trial for the offence referred to, and I am therefore not prepared to enter into the details of the case.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: Is it not the fact that during the trial the boycott of these Bradys was carried to such an extent that the learned Judge had to send them his own luncheon, and that they had to be smuggled out of the town into another county where they were not known before they could obtain a night's lodging?

MR. KILBRIDE: Are not the Bradys looked upon by the people of Leitrim in the same light as trade unionists in this country look upon blacklegs?

MR. BIRRELL repeated part of his Answer as to the difficulties experienced by the Bradys. He could not, he added, say whence they obtained their food supply.

Goodall Estate, Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any claim for the purchase of the Goodall estate, in the county Roscommon, has been laid before the Estates Commissioners; whether it has been represented to the Commissioners that only ten of the tenants agreed to the landlord's terms and fifteen declined; whether, in addition, there is a large quantity of grazing lands in the hands of non-residential tenants; and, if so, whether the Commissioners will approve of the sale as proposed.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that there are thirty-seven tenants on this estate, of whom all but twelve have lodged agreements for purchase. Before sanctioning the sale, the Commissioners intend to have the estate inspected in view of the fact that tenancies in respect of certain large holdings have been created since January, 1901. The inspection will take place as soon as possible.

Crofton Estate, Leitrim.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the delay of the negotiations regarding the Crofton estate, Ballinagleragh, county Leitrim, is a serious inconvenience to the tenants; whether he is aware that the neglect to restore an evicted farm on the estate to its owners is strongly resented in the district: and will he take steps to bring about an immediate settlement.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have suggested terms of settlement which they understand the owner is prepared to accept. The Commissioners have therefore directed their inspector to attend on an early date for the purpose of ascertaining whether the tenants will purchase on these terms, and if so, of obtaining their signature to the necessary documents. The Commissioners are aware that the question of an evicted farm in the district is causing ill feeling. They have endeavoured to settle the matter, but so far without success.

Royal College of Science, Dublin—The Library.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say why the librarianship of the Royal College of Science in Dublin has been kept vacant for nearly nine months; how the money saved by reason of this vacancy will be applied; and when it is proposed to make a new appointment.

MR. BIRRELL: There is no post of librarian at the Royal College of Science. The library was looked after by one of the attendants, who received an additional allowance of £20 a year for the work. This officer retired on pension at the end of October last. The arrangement by which the library was entrusted to an attendant was not altogether satisfactory, and the question of providing for the future care of the library is now under consideration.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware there used to be an officially appointed librarian; that when the vacancy arose the post was actually offered by advertisement to public competition, but that no appointment being made this valuable library was left in charge of the hall porter?

MR. BIRRELL: That is news to me. I only know there is no librarian at present, but I hope there soon will be one.

MR. HUGH LAW: I hope the right hon. Gentleman will bear in mind the inconvenience caused to those who use the library.

Gooseberry Mildew in Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the powers possessed by the Irish Executive for dealing with gooseberry mildew and other agricultural pests are sufficient; and, if not, whether, in view of the fact that legislation has been promised to confer further powers upon the English Board of Agriculture and local authorities, he will consider the advisability of increasing the powers of the Irish Department of Agriculture.

MR. BIRRELL: The Department of Agriculture do not possess any specific powers for dealing with gooseberry mildew and similar diseases. The question of applying to Ireland any legislation which may be introduced in connection with such matters will receive due consideration.

Agrarian Troubles in County Clare.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the number of cases recently reported from the county of Clare, where firearms have been used for purposes of outrage, since 1st January, 1907, where persons respectively named Kelly, M'Inerney, Scanlon, Maher, Frawley, Doherty, and FitzGerald (seven cases in all) were shot at and some of them badly wounded; was any person convicted in respect of any of these outrages; and has his attention been called to the charge of the Judge of Assize to the Clare Grand Jury.

MR. BIRRELL: The offences in which firearms were used were not seven but four, as I informed the hon. Member on 27th February.† In the case of Kelly, a shot was fired outside his house, but not at him. McInerney and Scanlon were, when working together, fired at by one man and injured, but not seriously. Maher was fired at, but not injured. Frawley was fired at and seriously injured. In the first three of these cases, the accused were acquitted at the recent Assizes. In the fourth the accused is on remand. In the case of Doherty no firearm was used, and the police authorities do not regard Fitzgerald's case as one of outrage. I have seen the Judge's address, which bears out the facts stated.

Clanricarde Estate Planters.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that a meeting of the planters on the Clanricarde estate had been summoned in February at Portumna Castle, by the agent, Edward Shaw Tener, who advised them to refuse compensation and resist the operation of the Land Bill of 1903 by every means in their power; and what steps, if any, he proposes to take to prevent the landlord or his agent from inciting tenants to resist the operation of the Law.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no information as to the meeting in question, and I have none.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): In view of the extremely serious condition of this district, will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to get the information from the police?

MR. BIRRELL: We are rather shy of drawing the police into these matters. We do not wish to introduce them more than we can help into quarrels of this kind, but I am fully alive to the importance of seeing what is done on this estate, and I will do my best to find out.

Labourers' Cottage Scheme in County Antrim.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland on what figures and on what information he has estimated that, even when the entire sum of £2,000 for labourers' cottages, which was formerly borne by the Exchequer grant in county Antrim, should fall on the rates, they would only be affected to the extent of five-sixths of a penny in the pound; and whether, in the case of Lisburn rural district, in county Antrim, the amount which the rates had already to bear owing to the reduction of the Exchequer grant was 1½d. in the pound.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 57.

MR. BIRRELL: The aggregate valuation of the several rural districts in county Antrim is £597,000, and therefore an average rate of five-sixths of a penny in the pound would produce £2,000. In the particular district to which the hon. Member refers, the rate appears to have been above the average.

Gaelic Athletic Association and England's Influence.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the remarks of Mr. Patrick Larkin, a justice of the peace for county Galway, at a meeting of the Gaelic Athletic Association, at Loughrea, on 21st January last, to the effect that any policy which would help to crush England's influence in Ireland would have his support; and whether, in view of the effect which such speeches may have, he will direct the attention of the Lord Chancellor to it, with a view to the removal from the commission of the peace of persons who openly proclaim their disloyalty.

MR. BIRRELL: My attention has been called to a newspaper report according to which Mr. Larkin, who is an *ex officio* magistrate, made the remark attributed to him in the Question. Whether this remark is disloyal is a matter of opinion. I see no reason to call the Lord Chancellor's attention to the matter.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: What is the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman? Does he think the remark disloyal?

[No Answer was returned.]

Beale National Schoolmaster.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Beasley, of Beale national school, Ballybunion, though bringing his school from middling to good since his appointment in 1904, is now worse off in the matter of salary than if he remained assistant; and whether the whole question of the method of granting increments and their amounts will be fully inquired into.

MR. BIRRELL: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that it is not the fact that this teacher has suffered by promotion. He now receives as principal some £6 per annum more than he would have received as assistant, and has the additional advantage that he is eligible for further promotion. As regards the concluding part of the Question, I am not in a position to make any promise.

Ancient Order of Hibernians—Cloveneden Meeting.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are to be permitted, contrary to usage and written agreement, to march through an Orange district in procession and with a band on the 17th March, at Cloveneden, county Armagh; and whether, in view of the possibility of a breach of the peace, he will direct the procession to take another route.

MR. MOORE: At the same time may I ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Irish Government have authorised the Ancient Order of Hibernians to break an agreement entered into with the authorities and with the Orangemen of the district, and observed for sixteen years past, by allowing a procession of the Hibernians to march in procession and with a band at Cloveneden, county Armagh, by the route which it was agreed should not be taken by them.

MR. BIRRELL: I understand that the Ancient Order of Hibernians propose to assemble at their hall in Cloveneden, and march with their band in procession to the chapel in that village by the only available road. This road passes through a Nationalist quarter though there is an Orange hinterland. It is intended to afford the party any protection which may be necessary to secure the exercise of their legal right to pass along the King's high road. In similar circumstances, and in the same district, the Government protected a procession of Orangemen last year when passing over Annaghmore Hill. I understand that the use of the proposed route does not conflict with any agreement which may be in existence.

United Irish League Demonstration at Ardagh.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at Ardagh on the 24th February, when, at a public demonstration arranged by the local branch of the United Irish League, and attended by a large number of persons, Mr. Patrick Keane, one of the persons who have taken the Crannagh Farm, was denounced by name and the people were advised to boycott him and make it hot for him; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: My attention has been called to this matter. The police are in constant attendance at the Crannagh farm, for the protection of Mr. Keane and others who have taken divisions of the land. Steps are being taken for the erection of a police hut on the farm, and the police will take all possible steps to prevent any interference with the persons concerned in the exercise of their legal rights.

Intimidation on Ryan's Estate, Galway.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. H. Burns, a grazing tenant on Ryan's estate, county Galway, has received a notice purporting to come from the Mullagh branch of the United Irish League, informing him that he will not be permitted to occupy his farm of Addergoole one moment beyond 1st April, 1907, and that, if he refuses to comply with the mandate of the people of Mullagh, the signatories of this notice will themselves put it into execution; whether the persons signing this threatening letter are known to the police; and what steps are to be taken to prosecute them and protect the tenant.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. Persons bearing the names appended to the notice are known to the police, but so far the police are not in a position to prove the signatures. The police will take all necessary steps to protect Mr. Burns in the exercise of his legal rights.

MR. LONSDALE: Have any steps been taken as yet to protect him?

MR. BIRRELL: Certainly.

County Court Land Valuers.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say what the ages of the land valuers to the county court judges in the several counties in Ireland are, or whether any of them are over seventy years of age.

MR. BIRRELL: I am inquiring into this matter. As I understand it, the continued employment of these valuers rests with the county court judges.

Crime in Limerick.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether, in view of the fact that Mr. Justice Johnson, in opening the assizes for the county of Limerick on Friday last, stated to the grand jury that there were only three cases, not of any great importance, to go before them, and that they had nothing to say to the general peace of the country, he will take steps to bring about the more speedy reinstatement of the evicted tenants, so that this state of affairs may be maintained.

MR. BIRRELL: According to the newspaper reports, Mr. Justice Johnson made the statement attributed to him in the Question. The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are using all possible expedition in dealing with the cases of evicted tenants.

Case of Mrs. Kate Scanlan.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Ballylongford branch of the United Irish League, at which over forty members were present, expressing their regret that Mrs. Kate Scanlan, of Tullahinnell, had been sent to gaol for retaking possession of her evicted farm on which she lived for over thirty years, and stating that the case is one which calls for the strongest condemnation; and whether in view of this fact and in the interest of the peace of the locality, he will at once take steps and ask the Estates Commissioners to bring about her reinstatement.

Mr. BIRRELL: I have received the resolution in question. The Estates Commissioners are considering whether they can take any further steps towards securing the reinstatement of the evicted tenant.

Youghal Bay Salmon Fishery.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that serious damage continues to be caused to the salmon fishing industry in the vicinity of Youghal, county Cork, by the number of seals which frequent Youghal Bay; and whether the Fishery Department of the Board of Agriculture will consider the desirability of offering substantial rewards for the destruction of the seals, or of taking some other prompt steps to deal with this evil.

Mr. BIRRELL: A substantial reward is given for the destruction of seals in Youghal Bay, namely £1 per head, of which half is paid by the Department of Agriculture and half by the local Board of Conservators. The chief haunt of the seals has been discovered in a cave, locally known as the Parliament House, a few miles from Youghal. This Parliament House is difficult of access, but the Department are considering whether some plan cannot be devised for the extirpation of its objectionable occupants.

Captain DONELAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the steps taken have not reduced the number of seals? Will he increase the reward?

Mr. BIRRELL: I think £1 a head is a substantial sum, but I will consider whether it should be increased.

Swinford Landlords Pressing for Rent.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the action of Mr. D'Arcy and other landlords in the Swinford union in pressing for immediate payment of rent which in ordinary course would not become payable until November next; whether, seeing that the Swinford union is one of the districts in Ireland seriously affected by the potato failure and in which it has been found necessary to take measures for relief of exceptional distress the Executive Government will take steps to secure the retention of those tenants on the land; and what steps the Government propose to take to secure the peace of the district.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have no information to the effect mentioned in the Question, and none has reached me. It would, I think, be matter for regret if landlords should take exceptional measures for the recovery of rent in a district which has admittedly suffered from scarcity. I have no reason to suppose that any special measures will be necessary to secure the peace.

Mr. DILLON: In view of the extreme gravity of this case and of the fact that it cannot come under the attention of the Estates Commission, will the right hon. Gentleman instruct the police to inquire whether any landlords are forestalling the usual time for demanding rent under threat of process in a district in which public money is being used for the relief of distress?

Mr. BIRRELL: I will make inquiries on my own account.

Rathmullan Breakwater.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if any steps have been taken to carry out the repeated promises of having a breakwater constructed at New Bridge, Rathmullan, county Donegal; and whether he is aware of the necessity for such a work.

Mr. BIRRELL: It is, I understand, desirable that some improvements should be effected at New Bridge. My predecessor had the matter under consideration but decided that it must be deferred for the present, in view of the stronger claims of other localities. The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that any promise in the matter has been given by the Government. The amount available under the Marine Works Act is now small, and I can only say that the claims of New Bridge to have a grant will receive full consideration if funds should be available.

North Donegal Harbours.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps, if any, have been taken to improve the harbour and fishing accommodation along the coast of North Donegal; and, seeing the need for such improvement, whether he will take steps to have the same effected.

MR BIRRELL: Under the Marine Works Act, a total sum of about £14,000 has in recent years been expended on works at Downing's Bay, Gortnasate, Portnoo, and Cladnageragh, on the north coast of Donegal, and a further sum of £800 is about to be spent at Falchorrib. The Congested Districts Board have expended over £4,000 on that coast; particulars will be found in Appendix No. XXI. to the Board's last Annual Report.

MR. O'DOHERTY: These places are not in North Donegal.

MR. BIRRELL: I was speaking of their geographical position; not of the constituency in which they may be.

Lattin Evicted Holding.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Estates Commissioners have purchased from the rev. Mr. Pennefather the evicted holding of Richard Merrick, at Ballynulty, Lattin, county Tipperary; that Merrick has been put into possession as caretaker, pending completion of agreement; and whether he will see that Merrick be allowed to commence his spring operations on the farm and be permitted to reside in the dwelling-house.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners' offer for the purchase of this farm has been accepted, but title has not yet been established, and the Commissioners, therefore, cannot yet enter into possession or formally reinstate the evicted tenant. The Commissioners are not aware that Merrick has been placed in possession as caretaker.

In reply to a further Question,

MR. BIRRELL said he greatly regretted the delay which occurred between the acceptance of offers and the establishment of title, and he was doing his best to make it as short as possible.

Powers of Irish Magistrates—Appeals.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that magistrates at petty sessions in Ireland are empowered to sentence to terms of imprisonment of not more than one month on summary conviction persons brought before them, that such sentences may be accompanied with hard labour, that from these sentences the prisoner has no power of appeal, that an increase of sentence to admit of the lodging of appeal is not uncommonly refused by magistrates, and invariably refused by resident magistrates constituting special Courts under the provisions of The Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, and that such refusal has frequently been the subject of grave comments by County Court Judges and Judges of the High Courts, and having regard to the fact that in England there is in every case a power of appeal from the decision of magistrates, he will consider the advisability of assimilating the English and Irish Criminal Law; and whether he will, in the meantime, bring under the notice of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland any case in which magistrates refuse to increase sentences so as to allow of an appeal.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. There is no right of appeal in Ireland from a sentence by magistrates for any term of imprisonment not exceeding one month, except in a few specified cases. I believe that occasionally a person sentenced to a short term of imprisonment has asked to have the sentence increased with the object of prosecuting an appeal and that this request has been refused, but such cases are not of frequent occurrence. If any such cases are brought to my notice by my hon. friend I shall be happy to draw the attention of the Lord Chancellor to them, but I doubt if he has any power to interfere. With regard to my hon. friend's suggestion of legislation to assimilate the English and Irish practice as regards the right of appeal, I may say that I should personally approve of such assimilation in this and many other respects, but I cannot give any pledge on behalf of the Government to introduce any measure for the purpose this session.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the power of appeal was promised under the Coercion Act, but that the promise has been departed from by the senior Member for the City of London.

[No Answer was returned.]

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I can enlighten the right hon. Gentleman if he desires.

Jury Challenges at the Cork Assizes.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of jurors ordered by the Crown to stand aside in criminal trials at the late Cork winter assizes; and under what authority the Crown solicitors acted in challenging jurors without cause assigned.

Mr. CHERRY: No winter assizes have been held at Cork since the year 1905. The winter assizes for the province of Munster were held last year at Limerick. The Crown solicitors there, for the various counties, acted under my directions in ordering jurors to stand aside. The directions I gave were the same as I have always given, namely, to follow strictly the rules laid down for their guidance in the circular issued on 12th February, 1894, to order any juror to stand aside whom they had reason to believe was in any way connected with the accused, or physically or mentally incompetent, or who had been canvassed on behalf of the accused, but not to challenge any juror on account of his religious or political opinions. I have no record of the number of jurors ordered to stand aside, but if the hon. Member desires it I shall endeavour to obtain a return for him.

Grants for Primary Education in Ireland.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland on what basis is the amount of State grants given for primary education in 1907 to England, Scotland, and Ireland calculated; what is the amount per head of the population given in each of the three countries in the year 1907; what is the proportion existing between the grants for the three countries for the same year; and whether, seeing that Ireland is a poor country, where education has long been neglected, he will consider the necessity of increasing the grant next year to the amount given to Scotland.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I can give no better answer as to the basis of the several grants than to refer to the titles of the various subheads of the three estimates. As regards the rest of the Question, I may point out that the preparation of a Return giving all the figures is a matter of immense labour, as will be seen from the Return prepared on the Motion of the hon. Member last year (House of Commons Paper 305 of 1906), which gave comparative figures for the year 1904–5, and I do not consider that the additional value of a Return substituting the figures for 1907–8 would justify my asking the Departments concerned to make the calculations afresh. I can see no reason for increasing the total grant for Ireland merely on the ground that the amount is less than that received by Scotland, where the number of children attending school is very much larger.

Irish Land Act Problems.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if the Treasury is aware that a vendor under the Land Act of 1903 benefits in proportion to the amount of his debts, within the limits of solvency, by receiving public money free of interest, or at low interest, to pay off private debts at high interest; that tenants pressed for arrears of rent which their farms have not yielded are not free agents, but sign purchase agreements as their only escape from that pressure; that the bonus is increased proportionately by the amount which the vendor thus obtains; and, if this absence of free bargaining and of inspection for value be-contrary to sound finance, will Parliament be asked to provide a remedy.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I cannot conveniently discuss, in Question and Answer across the floor of the House, the different views that may be held of the effect and policy of the Act of 1903. I have no knowledge of any tenants not being free agents, or of any absence of free bargaining. I understand that inspection is made in every case where fair rents have not been already fixed; and where fair rents have been fixed Section 1 of the Act applies. The bonus is, under Section 48 (1) of the Act "calculated at the rate of 12 per cent. on the amount of the purchase money advanced."

Advances under the Land Act on Insolvent Property.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the difference of judicial opinion, there will be any further appeal as to the legality of advancing public money under the Land Act of 1903 as a price of insolvent property, irrespective of value, with a bonus added to that price, and for payment of irrecoverable arrears of rent, with a bonus added to their amount; whether money is advanced by the Treasury for payments of this character to any other class or section but Irish landlords; and whether he can suggest any reason for the indifference of the Treasury to these payments except the fact that Irish resources are liable.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am not aware what difference of judicial opinion is referred to. The latter part of the Question is based on a misapprehension. Money is not advanced by the Treasury under the Land Purchase Acts. The Land Commission are responsible for the making of advances under those Acts, having regard to the provisions of the same as judicially interpreted.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if the Treasury have considered the financial soundness or unsoundness of a recent decision of the Court of Appeal in Ireland that the more embarrassed tenants are the more public money must be advanced for the purchase of their insolvent holdings, including irrecoverable arrears of rent with a bonus added to their amount; will the Treasury appeal against that decision, or have its effect counteracted by administration or by legislation; and, if not, will he state the financial reasons for allowing the system to continue.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am not prepared to discuss the matter of opinion in the hon. Member's first paragraph. I presume that the decision to which he refers is that in the matter of Crosbie's estate; and I understand that no appeal lies. The "system" referred to is that established by the Acts, and it is not the province of the Treasury to interfere with the administration of them or to introduce amending legislation.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, in view of the steady increase of local rates and taxes in Ireland, the growing liabilities upon the fund from which those local burdens have hitherto been relieved, and the fact that, under the Land Act of 1903, vendors are being paid eight years purchase of rent more than was found under previous purchase Acts to be the limits of safety for advances, whether the Treasury will in every case of sale prevent the advance of public money as price beyond the value of the thing sold as ascertained by official inspection.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Under the Land Purchase Act of 1903 the Land Commission, and not the Treasury, are responsible for advances. I believe higher prices are now paid by purchasing tenants than under previous Land Purchase Acts, but this is the result of the Act.

Taylorstown Postal Arrangements.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Taylorstown South, although only 3½ miles from the postal distributing centre of Toome, in the county of Antrim, has a postal delivery on only three days in the week, and that on the days of delivery, although the letters arrive at Toome, before eight in the morning, they are not delivered until 12.15, while in many places, at a greater distance from Toome they are delivered before 9 a.m.; whether, in view of the statement of the Postmaster-General a few years ago, that every part of the Kingdom was to have a daily delivery of letters where practicable, he will take steps to have an early daily delivery at Taylorstown; and whether he will have a pillar box erected in a central position in the same townland.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will send the hon. Member a reply after the necessary inquiries have been made.

Newcastle West (Limerick) Postal Arrangements.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can say why it is that the people of Newcastle West, in the county of Limerick, have now to post their letters at 7.30 o'clock p.m., while for many years past they need not have done so until 9 o'clock p.m.; and whether, owing to the inconvenience to the public in shortening the time for posting, he will take steps to have the old arrangement carried out.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will make inquiry on this subject and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Donegal Postal Arrangements.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General at what times are the mails delivered at Carndonagh, Malin, Culdaff, and Moville respectively, every day, and what times were the deliveries made at the two former places under the old mail-car system; whether he will state the cause of the change of the morning mail from Londonderry with the mails; and, in view of the inconvenience and loss the business people and community in general are subjected to on account of insufficient and late mail delivery and despatch, will he take steps to have the system of delivery and despatch of mails improved at and from those places.

I beg also to ask the Postmaster-General at what times the mails are despatched every day from Carndonagh, county Donegal; and whether he will take steps to have such a mid-day despatch as will enable the business people to avail of the limited mail from Londonderry.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have called for a Report respecting the despatches and deliveries at Carndonagh and district, and on its receipt I will acquaint the hon. Member with the result.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Redmond John Barry, esquire, K. C., for the county of Tyrone (North Tyrone Division).

NEW BILLS.

EDUCATION OF AFFLICTED CHILDREN (IRELAND) BILL.

"To provide for the better Education of Afflicted children in Ireland," presented by Mr. Charles Craig; supported by Mr. Moore, Mr. Hugh Barrie, Mr. Lonsdale, and Captain Craig; to be read a second time upon Monday, 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 102.]

CIVIL BILL COURTS (DUBLIN) BILL.

"To improve the procedure and make better provision for discharge of the business of the Civil Bill Courts of the City and County of Dublin," presented by Mr. John Gordon; supported by Mr. Harrington and Mr. Waldron; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 103.]

BUILDING LANDS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To deal with Building Lands in Scotland," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Mr. Lamont; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 104.]

PRIVILEGES.

Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Blake, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Ellis, Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, and Mr. John Wilson(Durham) were nominated Members of the Committee of Privileges.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, Papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Mr Whiteley.*)

SUPPLY [11TH MARCH] REPORT.

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907–8 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

"That a sum, not exceeding £21,410,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, viz. :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS II.

	£
Colonial Office - - -	25,000

CLASS IV.

Scientific Investigation, etc.	24,000
Board of Education - -	7,000,000

CLASS I.

Royal Palaces - - -	20,000
Osborne - - - -	5,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens - - - -	50,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings - - - -	20,000
Salisbury Memorial - -	—
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain - -	30,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain - - -	25,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings - - -	50,000
Revenue Buildings - -	210,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain - - - -	200,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom - - -	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade - - -	15,000
Peterhead Harbour - -	10,000
Rates on Government Property - - -	290,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland - - - -	95,000
Railways, Ireland - -	35,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—

	£
House of Lords Offices -	10,000
House of Commons Offices -	20,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments - - -	40,000
Home Office - - -	70,000
Foreign Office - - -	24,000
Privy Council Office - -	5,000
Board of Trade - - -	90,000
Mercantile Marine Services -	32,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade - -	500
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries - - -	60,000
Charity Commission - -	15,000
Civil Service Commission -	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department - - -	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry -	3,000
Local Government Board -	85,000
Lunacy Commission - -	5,000
Mint (including Coinage) -	5
National Debt Office - -	6,000
Public Record Office - -	10,000
Public Works Loan Commission - - - -	500
Registrar General's Office -	15,000
Stationery and Printing -	330,000
Woods, Forests, &c., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of - - - -	34,000
Secret Service - - -	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland, Office of - - - - -	25,000
Fishery Board - - -	5,000
Lunacy Commission - -	2,500
Registrar General's Office -	1,500
Local Government Board -	5,000

Ireland :—

Lord - Lieutenant's Household - - - -	2,000
Chief Secretary's Offices and Subordinate Departments	10,000
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	90,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office - -	1,000
Local Government Board -	30,000
Public Record Office - -	2,000
Public Works Office - -	16,000
Registrar General's Office -	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey - - - -	7,000

CLASS III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges - - -	30,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses - - - -	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry - - -	16,000
County Courts - - -	2
Police, England and Wales -	15,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies - - -	320,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain -	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum - - -	12,000

	£
Scotland :—	
Law Charges and Courts of Law - - - -	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission - -	2,000
Prisons - - - - -	35,000
Ireland :—	
Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions - - -	25,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments - - -	43,000
Land Commission - -	100,000
County Court Officers, &c.	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons - - - -	52,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools - - - -	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum - - - -	4,000
CLASS IV.	
United Kingdom and England :—	
British Museum - -	60,000
National Gallery - -	10,000
National Portrait Gallery -	3,000
Wallace Collection - -	3,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000
Scotland :—	
Public Education - - -	850,000
National Galleries - -	3,000
Ireland :—	
Public Education - -	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners - - -	400
National Gallery - -	2,000
Queen's Colleges - -	2,500
CLASS V.	
Diplomatic and Consular Services - - -	250,000
Colonial Services - -	350,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable - - -	25,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid) -	49,000
CLASS VI.	
Superannuation and Retired Allowances - - -	300,000
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances - -	1,150
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland - - -	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies -	—
CLASS VII.	£
Temporary Commissions -	28,000
Miscellaneous Expenses -	7,943
Repayment to the Local Loans Fund - - -	—
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Total for Civil Services - -	£13,980,000
REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.	
Customs - - - -	350,000
Inland Revenue - - -	830,000
Post Office - - - -	6,250,000
Total for Revenue Departments - -	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,410,000

Resolution read a second time.

*MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) said that about two years ago a Motion was moved in the House of Commons calling attention to the position of the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin. That Motion was agreed to, and he was glad to say it was supported at the time by not only the Irish representatives, but the representatives from Scotland. A Committee of Inquiry was constituted immediately after the Motion had been accepted by the Government, and the importance of an early discussion of the Report was all the greater, because unfortunately the Committee was not unanimous in its report. He himself was a member of the Committee, and finally three Members decided one way, and he and Mr. Justice Madden, a former hon. Member of that House, decided another way. It was contended that the Academy should be given a proper site and a proper building by the Government, and upon that point Sir James Guthrie, President of the Scottish Academy, was very clear in his evidence before the Committee. He showed that the Government had given a site for the Royal Academy in London. The case of Scotland was also shown in Sir James Guthrie's evidence, and a Bill was brought in in deference to the unanimous wish of the Scottish representatives with a view to having the question of the Scottish Academy satisfactorily settled. The important consideration which was before the House two years ago, and which was just as important at the present time, was that the Royal Hibernian Academy received only £300 a year from State funds. The Academy was established in 1823, and received a Charter of Incorporation the same as the Royal Academy in London. With the exception of that £300 and a small sum of £403 that was given in 1872 to roof one of the galleries, not a single penny of State funds had gone to the Royal Hibernian Academy. The result had been that the Academy had not been able to obtain the position which the primary art institution of any country was entitled to hold. It would be hardly necessary to draw the attention of the House to the evidence given before the Committee by the fourteen witnesses who were asked to what the present unfortunate position of the Royal Hibernian Academy was due. Twelve said it was due to the bad position in which it was situated and to the impossibility of the Hibernian Academy really being a successful institution owing to the small amount of State funds coming to it. It was impossible to call attention to the whole of the evidence on that point, and he would therefore only refer to the evidence of those who were not Irishmen, and of those who were officials. Sir James Guthrie, the president of the Royal Scottish Academy, was asked about the accommodation and position and he said—

> "The matter lies at the root of a whole side of the national existence, and if its art life is not to be stifled by undue centralisation that makes all depend upon London, Ireland should have a fitting centre for its art workers and art lovers to rally round. I do not think the question can be tested in their [the Academy buildings] present position. I think the most important feature of all is that they should come to such a neighbourhood as this [the neighbourhood of Leinster House] that they may have a chance of becoming an element in the life of the capital."

Sir William Abney was an English official sent over six or seven years ago to inquire into the position of the Academy and on his view the Committee based a good deal of their Report. Sir William Abney said—

> "It is situated now in the worst part of Dublin for an exhibition, and people will not go there; whereas, if they had it in an important part of the city, somewhere near the museum for instance, they would have a very great many more visitors, and I think there would be many more purchasers. It is simply out of the way, and to be successful it must be in the way."

Even at that time Lord Plymouth, the chairman of the Committee, seemed very much impressed with the evidence before him, and he asked Sir William—

> "Seeing that the amalgamation which you then proposed has not taken place—and I do not think it is likely to take place—do you think that it would be, not a waste of money, but an advisable step to re-house the Academy first of all."

And his answer was—

> "I have not the slightest doubt about that; it ought to be re-housed."

Those gentlemen unconnected with Ireland, who had had a chance of seeing the position of the buildings and the state they were in, gave it as their deliberate opinion that the Royal Hibernian Academy had not been given a chance of success because of the position of the buildings and the smallness of the grant from the State. The Report of the majority of the Committee was to the effect that the Royal Hibernian Academy as a teaching centre should be done away with. The reference to the Committee was to report whether any, and, if so, what, means should be taken in order to enable the institution of the Royal Hibernian Academy and the Metropolitian School of Art to serve more effectively the purposes for which they were maintained. The majority Report recommended that the Royal Hibernian Academy as an educational institution should cease to exist. It was essential that that matter should be discussed, because if it had been put to the Committee that it might be well for the Academy to be destroyed altogether different questions would have been put to the witnesses with a very different result. He therefore submitted that the teaching faculty should not be taken away from the Royal Hibernian Academy. In other countries the idea of an academy was inseparably bound up with teaching, and up to now it had been so with the Royal Hibernian Academy. Point was given to this view by the evidence of an English artist who kindly gave evidence before the Committee. Mr. George Clausen, A.R.A., said—

> "If you take away the school from it, it only becomes then the same as any other body of

exhibiting artists, and it has no *raison d'etre* as an Academy."

Another important consideration arose on that, viz., whether the State would be justified in acting on the majority Report and thereby depriving the Academy of its teaching functions. That would go to the root of the present State grant which it had received ever since it had existed. Since 1832 out of the grant from the State the Academy had devoted £250 to the life school, reserving only £50 for the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings. It was true that the grant was not given conditionally on the teaching being upheld, but it seemed to him that if the teaching function was abolished the Treasury might come down and say, the teaching having been given up, there was no reason for a grant to keep up an institution which served only as an exhibition for artists. It was for that reason as well as many others that he took this strong point. The Art Union of Ireland, the Institute of Architects and the Royal Hibernian Academy itself had passed resolutions strongly protesting against the majority Report, and a petition had been presented against it. In that petition were the names of four governors of the National Gallery of Ireland, who were men experienced in the art life of the country, and, so far as he knew, there had been no public expression of opinion in favour of the majority Report. If anyone read the majority and minority Reports they must come to the conclusion that the minority were absolutely justified in their Report which would give the Royal Hibernian Academy a new building and a new site in order to carry on its work successfully. Of all the recommendations of the majority Report the most serious was that, when the teaching was taken away from the Academy one art school, the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art, alone should remain. During the last two years that school had been deprived of its head-master, as the vacancy had not been filled up, and the Treasury had gained in consequence. When the majority Report advised that only one such school should be maintained they suggested an arrangement which was absolutely unworkable. In the constitution of the outside committee three members were to be nominated by the Department, three by the Royal Hibernian Academy, two by the Lord-Lieutenant, and one director of the National Gallery—nine in all. Those in Ireland who were acquainted with advisory committees were of opinion that such a committee would break down in a very short time, and the whole management would be thrown into the hands of the Department. It was because he saw the impossibility of the scheme of the majority of the Committee being worked that he strongly opposed, as he believed did the public opinion of Ireland, the Report's being adopted. It had struck him very much indeed, in reading the majority Report, to see that a certain amount of reliance for their opinion was placed upon the evidence given before the Committee by one or two artists. They relied on the evidence of Mr. William Orpen, an artist well-known, not only in Ireland, but in England, who was very insistent upon the point that it was impossible to expect that a body of artists should be controlled by a Government Department. He said it was absurd to have artists controlled by a Department of Agriculture; let the artists control themselves. Sir James Guthrie pointed out that the Scottish system was absolutely unworkable, and that the Scottish artists, under the Board of Manufactures, were absolutely controlled and unable to free themselves and work for themselves. The evidence given before the Committee was that if they wished to encourage fine art they must not tie down artists by putting them under a Government Department. If it happened in London that the Royal Academy could be thwarted and held in bondage by a Government Department, he was perfectly certain that its success would not be such as it was. Mr. Justice Madden and he, in presenting their Report, pointed out clearly that, with the exception of the official witnesses brought before the Committee, practically no support was given to the recommendations now put forward in the majority Report. But Mr. Fletcher, one of the officials, was asked by the chairman the following question—

"Is there room in Dublin for some other school of teaching for professional artists, such, for instance, I will put it, as a strong Royal

Hibernian Academy School, side by side with the Metropolitan School of Art."

Mr. Fletcher answered—

> "I think there is. The difficulty I see at the moment with regard to that is the paucity of properly prepared students, but I think there is ample room for that or for other effort of that character, strengthened as far as it is possible to strengthen it."

So even one of the official witnesses, on whom the majority relied, when asked whether it was advisable to have a second school in Dublin, said undoubtedly it was, and that the institution should be strengthened as far as it possibly could be. The majority of the Committee further relied on the evidence brought forward about the regrettable position of the Academy, and the fact that it was not in a flourishing condition, and that its teaching had not been up to the standard which should have been looked for. But, as two of the witnesses pointed out, it was not merely in excellence of teaching that they got success or skill; it was in the influence which clever and capable students exercised on one another that they had the real foundation of success and skill. If the remarks which the majority of the Committee quoted in support of their findings were carefully examined, and especially the evidence of Mr. James Brenan, for many years a director of the Metropolitan School of Art, it would be seen that the highest teaching was not in itself so absolutely essential to the success of the school, because the influence which students had upon one another was of the greatest value in creating a good school of art. Mr. Brenan, for example, said—

> "One of the most important factors in the education of the students of an academy is the effect on them of the students with whom they are working. There is more to be learned from working with other clever students than people imagine—it is amazing what influence a clever student has in a school."

And Mr. Yeats, the well-known writer and an art student in his early days, said—

> "A student learns more from his fellow-students than he does from his teacher. If there is a good teacher, so much the better; but the only teacher a student can learn from is a good creative artist, because there is no teaching worth anything except the infection rom a creative mind."

Mr. Boland.

These two witnesses were strongly for the necessity of a teaching academy. But there were other reasons why they in Ireland had reason to object to the Report of the majority of the Committee, and to express their hope that the Government would not act upon the majority Report, but, after examining the evidence, put aside any prepossessions they might have for what he might call official views, and see if they could not possibly do something to put the Royal Hibernian Academy in a proper position. Their reasons were that if they centralised everything in London, if they made Irish artists in pursuit of their profession go to London or abroad for their teaching, they did away absolutely with the hope of a future Irish school of art; therefore steps should be taken to make the Royal Hiberian Academy in Dublin an academy as efficient and properly supported as it could possibly be. They were not concerned now merely with the existing conditions of Dublin, which from various causes was no longer like London, the capital of a country. Dublin had become merely the principal town of a province. But he had not the least doubt that in the future, when she had a University settlement, and in a self-governed country, Dublin would again become the centre of national life, and the Irish people would look to the city as the focus of the nation. There would be better conditions for a school of art, and the Royal Hibernian Academy would be able to flourish and to carry on its useful work. At present there were intellectual efforts being made which fifteen or twenty years ago were non-existent. The great work of the Gaelic League in reviving the Irish tongue had also a great effect in quickening interest in art. It was shown already in very many ways, and notably at national and local feiseanna where, among the features, was a display of the works of Irish artists. These efforts had been going on for years. If in a moment of aberration the Government, as he hoped they would not, were to crush out of existence the only academy of fine art in Ireland, they would give a terrible set back to those intellectual influences now at work in creating a regular school of Irish art. He begged them, therefore, to consider, not only what Ireland was entitled to, if England

and Scotland were taken into comparison, but to bear in mind also that Ireland was making a claim, not merely for the present, but for the future of Irish art. He sincerely hoped that when the Secretary to the Treasury came to reply he would say that a grant and a site would be provided in Dublin for a new building for the Royal Hibernian Academy and to enable that institution to fulfil the objects for which it was established three-quarters of a century ago. He formally moved to reduce the vote by £100.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£21,410,000,' and to insert '£21,409,900.'"—(*Mr. Boland.*)

Question proposed, "That '£21,410,000' stand part of the Resolution."

Mr. GWYNN (Galway) said it was important to consider the suitability or the unsuitability of the present site upon which the Royal Hibernian Academy was housed. The movement of the population of Dublin had left the present building stranded, and it was now on the wrong side of the river. In London, he thought the site of the Tate Gallery had been against the fulfilment of the original purpose for which it was founded. The essential point at issue was not whether they should have a new site for the Academy or spend a great deal of money improving the present building, but whether they should preserve in Ireland a free institution for the teaching of art. The Report of the Committee which inquired into the question advocated the abolition of the Royal Hibernian Academy as a teaching body, and the Metropolitan School of Art was to take up the teaching functions which at present were discharged by the Hibernian Academy. It was interesting to consider how the Metropolitan School of Art was administered. It was under the charge of the Department of Argiculture and Technical Instruction, which at the present moment had so wide a range of duties that its attention could not be advantageously distributed over all the various departments of life which came within its scope. Provision had been made for a headmistress of art at the Metropolitan School of Art. Four years ago that post became vacant, and it had not been filled from that day to this. The salary had, of course, gone into the coffers of the Treasury and had been lost to Ireland. Two years ago the head teacher at the same institution died, and that post had not been filled up. There was no reason why temporary appointments should not have been made in those cases, because there were people in Dublin admirably suited for the positions. The school would then have been properly staffed and the money would not have been lost to Ireland. There was only about £5,000 or £6,000 a year being spent on the teaching of art in Dublin, and out of that sum £700 or £800, so far as he could ascertain, had been lost annually to Ireland through those vacant appointments not being filled up. The Hibernian Academy was not all that they wished it to be, but he thought it would be more watchful over interests of art in Ireland than the Department of Agriculture. He had read the evidence given before the Committee by men of letters and artists of note who evidently were not so conversant with business methods and did not tender their evidence so well as those who came forward with cut and dried schemes. They were, however, all agreed that the Academy should be preserved and managed by artists and not be given up to officials. Mr. Orpen, the well-known artist, spoke with contempt of handing over the teaching of art to the Department of Agriculture. There was an alternative proposal to delegate the functions of the Academy to a committee consisting of a few artists, but the bulk of the committee would be amateurs and red tape officials. They were advocating the continuance of the life of the Royal Hibernian Academy, which he agreed was now in low water in point of talent, but there was always the chance of some man of ability coming forward who would again make the teaching of art in Dublin a reality and a living thing. They all knew the late Mr. Walter Osborne, who was connected with the Academy three years ago. His death was most untimely, and he had left a great blank in art in Dublin, but there was always a chance of another man arising. He would therefore appeal to the Government not to leave the teaching of art to the Department of Agriculture, but allow it to be carried on by an association of artists not bound by red tape.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury) said he had gone carefully into the question of the Royal Hibernian Academy. It was founded about the year 1823, and since the year 1832 it had received an annual grant of £300. He agreed that £300 a year was not a very large sum, but the Academy depended more upon the amount of money received from exhibitions held in its building. A special grant had been made upon one occasion, and he understood that there had been two or three small endowments. He thought they might take it that the amount of money at the disposal of the Academy had never been sufficient for them to do anything like establish an art school. The attendance at the annual exhibition had gone down from 28,000 people in 1885 to about 9,700 in 1905. Under such conditions no art school could possibly flourish. The Committee appointed to inquire into the present state of the Royal Hibernian Academy inquired into the question with the sole idea of benefiting Irish art. It was certainly the wish of the Chief Secretary and himself to do all they could to develop Irish art in the best possible way. He did not know that the hon. Member for Kerry could draw a direct parallel either from England or Scotland in regard to the matter. The English Royal Academy was more of a private institution and had maintained its independence and was altogether free from interference by the State. He thought it was a very happy circumstance that it was not controlled by officials or politicians. The Glasgow school, which was a better parallel, was altogether free from State interference, but there was no Academy in Glasgow, where the life school was conducted by the school authorities. It had been under the control of the municipality with such assistance as the students and artists themselves by their voluntary services chose to give. The Board spent far more money for dairy farms and fisheries than it was ever likely to spend for painting and sculpture. He wished to know whether it was thought that it would not be possible to provide a sufficiently good life school. He only put that as a purely hypothetical question. The question they had to decide was whether it was possible in Dublin for two life schools to flourish side by side. Dublin was not very large, nor indeed was all Ireland very large, and the number of art students that could be trained in a life school must of necessity be small. A life school was an expensive institution, and he was inclined to doubt whether two life schools could prosper in the city of Dublin. The question was whether the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries should have the whole of its work in this direction handed over to the Royal Irish Academy or whether the reverse should take place. At the present time the life school of the Royal Hibernian Academy was by no means prosperous. He thought the numbers in the institution in the last term were fifteen women and one man. With such a number of students they were not likely to have prosperity. His hon. friends might consider the possibility of either amalgamating or giving up this part of the work. For his own part he would be very glad to see the Royal Hibernian Academy in a more prosperous condition. They had to consider ways and means. It was clear that they could not afford to keep up the life school of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and that of the Royal Hibernian Academy as well. His hon. friend made no reference to one of the recommendations, namely, to have a gallery of modern art. That was outside the Motion now before the House, and therefore he would not further refer to it. The recommendations of the majority had been carefully considered. The points were that grants should be made out of the Votes to render the galleries suitable for exhibition; that there should be a reconstitution of the Academy in the way of amalgamating the life schools; that a professorship should be established at the school, and that there should be an outside committee to direct the work of the life school of painting and sculpture, and to select teachers. All he could say at the present time was that he looked sympathetically at the position of those behind the Royal Hibernian Academy. But the recommendations were not such as he could accept. He felt that there was something more required than the majority seemed at realise. He hoped his hon. friends would rest satisfied with the assurance that he would do all that he could in the matter, and if they would be so good as to forward to him and the Irish Government details of such real business-like schemes as they wished to put forward, they would receive sympathetic consideration. He would like to point out in passing that his hon. friends must not assume that it was altogether an easy matter to get a suitable site in Dublin. He understood that Sir James Guthrie thought that it would cost something between £15,000 and £20,000. Might he point out that Sir James Guthrie was a Scotsman who, so far as he knew, did not know about land values in Ireland. He doubted whether that estimate would cover anything like what was required for both site and building. If his hon. friend wished to follow the Scottish precedent, he must remember that the Government had not provided a building in Scotland. All that they had done was to provide a site. He would be glad if his hon. friend submitted a scheme which he thought would be approved by the Royal Hibernian Academicians and the large number of people in Ireland outside of the Academy who were interested in Irish painting and sculpture.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said he was very glad that they had now an authorised statement that there was no intention on the part of the Government to support the majority Report of the Committee. He never for a moment imagined that they would assent to it. Speaking for himself, he would prefer that all artistic matters should be in the hands of the Royal Hibernian Academy, his view being that the Board of Agriculture had more than enough to do in other directions. The idea that a number of well-meaning gentlemen should be entrusted with the extremely difficult and altogether peculiar work in connection with sculpture and painting was quite beyond his comprehension. What was really wanted was the establishment of a national school of art, and he thought that the discussion that day might lead towards that end. If the Irish had a Government of their own, one of the first things they would do would be to establish an Irish school of art, and endow it well and richly. Probably one of the first things they would do would be to break up the cumbersome administration of the Department of Agriculture and divide the work among separate departments. At all events, art would be entitled to a separate Department for itself. The Irish had produced good painters, and at the present moment there were several sculptors of merit in their midst. Those who took an interest in the intellectual development of Ireland were anxious that the question should receive immediate and proper attention. They could not suppose that the miserable pittance of £300 a year was sufficient for the encouragement of art in Ireland. What they would like, pending the arrival of the time when they would be allowed to do things for themselves, would be to have a fairly generous endowment of art from the Imperial Parliament. Everybody knew how much had been done for the promotion of art in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, and Liverpool. It was not wise to drive all art teaching into one centre. The proper thing to do, even in one country, was to have various artistic centres. Dublin, as the capital of Ireland, should have a school of art of its own. Ireland was a poor country as compared with England, and it had not the wealthy and leisured class who were to be found on this side of the Channel—people who were either disposed or able in a large degree to do anything for artistic matters. Therefore, the State had special and particular responsibilities in regard to Ireland. He thought that was a good opportunity for urging the claims of Ireland for the establishment of a national art gallery. Nothing would tend more to the encouragement of Irish art in future. If there was an English school, and a Scottish school, why should there not be an Irish school also? He hoped that any proposals which might be laid before the Government would receive careful and favourable consideration.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he supported the views expressed by the hon. Members who had just spoken in support of the reduction. The aspect of the case that appealed most strongly to him was the absurdity that the school of art in Ireland should be under the control of the Department of Agriculture. There never was in the history of the muddle which had characterised English Government in Ireland a greater absurdity than that the Department of Agriculture should have control of art matters. Its functions were so multifarious that one was reminded of a character in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Mikado." The Department had under its control for some years the only art school in Ireland, and amongst its other duties were those of attending to swine fever, the supplying of potatoes, the teaching of science, the superintendence of the National Library and Museum, and an infinite variety of other matters. In fact no human being, no matter how great his acquirements might be, could possibly attend to one quarter of the matters under the jurisdiction of that extraordinary Department. What qualification they could be supposed to have for the conduct of art schools surpassed his comprehension, unless it was that megalomania had taken possession of the Department in its desire to obtain control over all activities of Irish life. What qualification had its officials for the selection of masters in art? As the hon. Member for Galway had stated, for the last two years the school of art in Dublin had been left without a head master, a most outrageous condition of things, entailing a return to the Treasury of a portion of the infinitesimally small amount devoted to the teaching of art. No proper excuse had ever been offered for the action of the Department in not appointing a teacher. Perhaps he could suggest the excuse that there was not a single man who had an atom of qualification for selecting a teacher of art. The real truth was that the Department was utterly over-burdened with work, and it was not managed in a way to qualify it to do one fourth or one fifth of the work imposed on it. Perhaps the failure to appoint a head master might turn out in the long run to be a blessing in disguise; because it was possible they might ultimately get a teacher appointed by people qualified to select a proper teacher. The hon. Member for Galway was exceedingly sanguine in the matter, but he was not. The fate of Dublin was exceedingly sad. A century ago it was one of the art capitals of Europe, and could hold its own with many cities in Europe in its artistic achievements. If the art life of Dublin had been allowed to develop on national lines there would have been no city in Europe with which it would have feared to compete. Dublin had been dragged down from its position as the capital of a nation possessed of considerable artistic gifts, and reduced to the position of a decaying town. The old houses in Dublin were a wonder and admiration to those who wandered amongst them; and hundreds of the best artists of Italy were attracted to Dublin a hundred years ago by its wealthy citizens to decorate their great palaces. Those houses were still a source of wonder, although they had fallen into decay, and many beautiful works of art had been pillaged and brought over to England. The Government had gradually withdrawn all encouragement for artistic effort; and yet so persistent was the art tradition in Dublin that even in spite of the discouragement, Irish artists, like Mr. Foley, had decorated the city with statues which were infinitely superior as works of art to those which were to be found in London. As years rolled by, instead of making progress in artistic work, Dublin, under the blight of this extraordinary kind of government, had gradually decayed. The hon. Member for Kerry had said one of the greatest merits of the Gaelic League had been that in the last stage of decay of Irish art a movement had arisen among the people, which, although in its infancy, carried with it the promise of great artistic development among the Irish people. It would be a most unfortunate and cruel thing if that promise were blighted by the teaching of art in Dublin being placed completely under the control of a Department which had not the confidence of the Irish people. He entirely supported the appeal of his hon. friends, though he did not profess to have so much knowledge of these matters as they had. He urgently appealed for sympathy for the new movement which was stirring so widely and so deeply among the people in their pathetic desires to recover their lost traditions, of which they were justifiably proud; and he asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in settling the matter, to see that the whole control of art, whatever scheme might be adopted, was taken out of the hands of the Department of Agriculture and put under the control of men who knew something about it, who would be free from the trammels of the Treasury, and who would have a fair chance of contributing towards the recovery of that glorious element in the spiritual life of the nation.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he felt it to be a privilege to be in entire agreement with hon. Members below the gangway in trying to do something on behalf of art in Ireland. He had pleasure in the last Parliament in supporting the hon. Member who moved the reduction, and he thought every Irishman owed him a great debt for the earnest and eloquent and whole-hearted perseverance he had devoted to this cause. He and his colleagues entirely agreed in supporting the hon Member in what was a reasonable and practical proposal. Irishmen were by temperament a poetic and artistic people, and it was not owing to any fault or want of natural aptitude, but owing to want of opportunity and want of training, that they had not produced the large number of artists that one would naturally expect them to have. He was not sure that he was in order in repeating the appeal he made unsuccessfully in the last Parliament for the circulation on loan of the great pictures which belonged to the nation as a whole, and which ought not to be hoarded up as they were. There were accumulations of pictures in all parts of Ireland, which, if exhibited, would do a great deal towards stimulating the growth of the artistic spirit. He only wished the Chief Secretary had been present to listen to the appeals that had been made, because, although he could not trust the Chief Secretary in everything, he would trust the artistic side of his nature; and he felt sure that however hard of heart the Treasury might be, the Chief Secretary, with his artistic and literary temperament, would have been stirred by the appeals which had been made.

*MR. BOLAND said he was perfectly satisfied with the answer given by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and he hoped that the attention which the hon. Gentleman would give to the claims of Ireland in this respect would meet the case. He had not referred to the urgent claims for a modern art gallery, as he thought it might not have been in order on this Vote, but he trusted that the Secretary to the Treasury would not lose sight of those claims. He asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said there were some points to which he wished to draw attention before the Resolution was agreed to. The first was as to the character of the teaching which was apparently allowed to be given on Sundays by the London County Council in some schools belonging to them. The principle which he had always supposed to reign in regard to the use of elementary schools had been that those schools which were built and maintained by public money should not be used, except under the strictest limitations, for public political purposes; and certainly should not be used for a definite political propaganda. He had also understood that in according the use of those schools, as a local authority might well do on days when they were not required for secular teaching, equal treatment should be meted out to all forms of religious belief. There were, if he was correctly informed, certain schools in London in which teaching of a distinctly Socialistic and secular character was given on Sundays. He had before him a list of five such schools, and he thought that the attention of the President of the Board of Education should be directed to what had occurred in them. He had read a description of such a school meeting, and what took place was this. The children were ranged in classes. The teacher called them comrades and said he met them as comrades. Then what was called the "roll of builders" was called over, and the children were asked to answer to that as builders, because they were builders of a new world. He himself hoped they would be builders of a new world, but not of such a world as was contemplated by that instruction. In one of the cases of which he read a description, the instruction was mainly given by a young working man, who was introduced as a convert. He confessed himself to have been a Liberal and to have entertained certain religious convictions, but he said he was no longer a Liberal but was a Socialist, and he informed the class also that he had dismissed all religious teaching as the rags of a useless superstition. That meant that on the religious side the teaching of these schools was distinctly secular. The hymns that were recited or chanted by the children called upon them to look for no help from any other source, except such as was to be found in this world, and entirely through themselves. In fact the whole tenour of the teaching appeared to be what a French Minister described as the object of the Secularist Party in France, to "tear the light out of Heaven and faith out of the heart." Of course those who entertained those opinions and desired that teaching, were welcome to it, but not, he should imagine, in the public elementary schools of the country. And where the use of the schools on Sunday was granted by the local authority he ventured to say that not merely should equality be observed between all forms of religion, but preference should not be shown to a class of teaching which enjoined the advantages of having no religious belief. He had been informed of a case in which the vicar of a parish inquired of the Local Education Authority for London whether he could have the use of a school for Sunday School purposes, and he was informed that he could not have it on the Sunday he asked for as the managers did not meet for a fortnight; but on that very Sunday the use of the school had been granted to this Socialistic Society. [AN HON. MEMBER: Probably leave was granted previously.] But he was told that the managers did not meet for a fortnight, and he naturally presumed the school was vacant. On the political side the teaching was particularly, definitely, and aggressively of a Socialistic character. He took two subjects which he had seen set forth in the catechism which the children went through on these occasions. One related to the feeding of children, and the children were asked why the rich objected to the feeding of children by the nation; and one of the answers was that the rich objected because they said it would tend to pauperise the parents. Then they were asked what was a pauper; and the answer was that a pauper was a man who could work, but was unwilling to work, leading the children to believe that the rich were the real paupers because they, being able to work, did not work, but lived on the labour of others. Then the children were asked whether there was any other reason in the minds of the rich for refusing to support the feeding of the children by the nation other than the pauperising of the parents; and the answer the children were taught to give was:—"The rich think that if the children of the working class are better fed and become better educated they would become more independent and demand a higher wage." That seemed to be an attempt to inculcate in the minds of the children the idea that those who were better off than themselves deliberately rejoiced in the starvation of the poor, because if they were better fed and brought up they would be able to demand a higher wage. The children were taught that everybody who was better off, better educated, and seemed more comfortably circumstanced than themselves was an enemy,. He held that teaching of that sort was most pernicious. There was one other little bit in one of these catechisms which he would like to commend to the notice of the President of the Board of Education: it turned upon wages. The question and answer ran:—"If the masters had their way, to what level do you think they would reduce your father's wages?" "To the level of the Chinaman's." "Has this been attempted?" "Yes; in South Africa, where they employ Chinamen instead of white men." The comment which he had seen made upon that portion of the catechism was that this well-known piece of mendacity had never been more concisely put. He thought that teaching of that kind should not be given in these schools on a Sunday afternoon to the children of the poor. He would like to ask with what authority was that teaching given to children, and did their parents desire it? Of course, if they did, they were welcome to it elsewhere than in the school; but he really doubted whether the parents knew of the character of the teaching given. All the parents knew probably was that on a Sunday afternoon their children were in a clean and comfortable place. He would like also to ask if the ratepayers knew of the teaching, and did they approve of the use of the schools, built with their money, for the purpose of putting such ideas into the minds of the children of London.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.): May I ask how the hon. Baronet makes his remarks germane to the Vote?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he was asking the President of the Board of Education to pay some attention to some matters within his Department, and he wished to know by what authority the schools were lent for this purpose. He thought the right hon. Gentleman could inquire on what terms the use of the schools was granted on a Sunday afternoon without the sanction of the ratepayers. They were public schools, and a public authority ought not to allow such things to go on if they were not satisfactory to the ratepayer. They ought not to allow to be taught in public schools propaganda of that kind of which he was sure the ratepayer would not approve. If a school was improperly used for that purpose he thought it was the duty of the Board of Education to ascertain by whose authority it was done, and if they found that it was sanctioned by the local authority or the managers, the President might state that if the policy was continued it might lead to the withdrawal of the grant.

Mr. McKENNA: Can the hon. Baronet tell me of any such power in the Board?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON replied that the President of the Board of Education had great power in regard to reducing or withdrawing a grant.

Mr. McKENNA: To a public elementary school?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON urged that surely the Board of Education, as it first of all allowed the building to be erected at the public expense, had some control over it; and if a local authority or the managers turned their schools during the time they were not being used as public elementary schools into places used for political or other purposes unsatisfactory to the ratepayers, he thought the Board of Education might very properly intervene and ascertain whether it was the managers or the local authority themselves who were at fault in the matter, and intimate that the continuance of such conduct might lead to the withdrawal of the grant.

Mr. McKENNA: I am only asking for information from the hon. Baronet. Can he tell me of any powers which the Board have to do what he speaks of?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said his strong impression was that the President would find that he had such powers; but what he was doing was to invite his attention to what he conceived to be the public scandal of public elementary schools being used for the purpose he had described, and he was asking the right hon. Gentleman to inquire into the matter to see if these things took place, under whose authority they were done, and to use such powers as the Board of Education possessed to bring such a scandal to an end. He had not heard of the scandals occurring elsewhere than in London, and he hoped the education authority, as now constituted, would take care that such things did not take place elsewhere. The matter was one which was properly brought before the House, and he hoped the President would use such powers as he had to bring the scandal to an end. Another matter on which the House ought to have further information had reference to the newly-constituted Welsh Department. He wished to know why the Chief Inspector in Wales was to receive £1,200 a year, while the English chief inspectors got only £1,000. In addition he also desired to know what were the relations between the Chief Secretary of the Welsh Department and the Permanent Secretary at Whitehall. The practical interpretation of the Code, he pointed out, rested with those who carried on the current business of the Department, and it was only in the cases when more difficult questions arose that they came before the President. He was anxious to be assured by the President of the Board of Education that there would be even and consistent administration of the law in England and in Wales. They were aware, he thought, that the Welsh Secretary, newly appointed, was not a special friend of the voluntary schools; and they also knew that some of the Welsh local authorities imposed a different standard of building and equipment on voluntary schools and on council schools. They insisted peremptorily on sanitary improvements and the like being carried out in voluntary schools, while they were somewhat lax in carrying out, even at the instance of the Board of Education, similar improvements in their own schools. That was the case in Carnarvonshire. He was told that now the local authority for Anglesey was expressing a consciousness that their council schools were far from what they should be, and were suggesting that the necessary improvements should be extended over a series of years. He did not quarrel with that. So long as the schools were not unfit for the habitation of children, he did not wish that local authorities should have thrown upon them excessive burdens by insistence on improvements not urgent; but he asked that, as in England so in Wales, the requirements in the case of voluntary schools should march *pari passu* with the requirements in council schools. It was not right that in voluntary schools sanitary improvements and the like should be insisted upon without delay while in the council schools so much latitude was given. He wished, in conclusion, to refer to the compulsion imposed on some local authorities as to the teaching of the Welsh language. That might produce considerable hardship in cases where the parents were not Welsh, and where, as the children did not hear Welsh spoken at home, they were practically taking an additional subject in the form of a foreign language. He asked that the complaints of parents on that point should receive attention, and that freedom should be allowed in respect of that instruction.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said he wished to criticise the action of the secondary schools branch of the Board of Education, which had for many years been marked by an undemocratic spirit and by a want of sympathy with the desire to place higher education within the reach of all children who were qualified or anxious to receive it. That unsympathetic spirit of the secondary school management had culminated in the publication under peculiar circumstances of a Report of the Consultative Committee. The Board of Education had referred to that Committee certain specific questions relating to higher elementary schools; but the Committee had gone far beyond the terms of reference, and had seemed to lay down in their Report what they thought should be the educational future of the children of the poor. They seemed to suggest that secondary schools should be kept exclusive and select, and that very few, if any, of the children of the poor should be admitted to them. It appeared to be suggested to parents of those children and to sympathetic local authorities who desired to erect secondary schools that their ambition should be limited to the higher elementary school. The Board of Education had adopted the extraordinary course of suppressing the names of witnesses and the text of the evidence they gave. The Board of Education took that action entirely on its own initiative; nobody suggested it should be done. There were many statements in the Report which ought not to have been launched under the cover of anonymity, such as one attributed to "a witness of long experience whose opinion was entitled to weight," that certain moral qualities were to-day far less commonly found among the working classes than they used to be thirty years ago. Equally weighty evidence could be adduced to the opposite effect. The constitution or reconstitution of that Committee, which was almost exclusively academic, and, although it had three women upon it, had no representative of working women, should receive immediate attention.

MR. McKENNA was understood to say he was already attending to it.

MR. PICKERSGILL was extremely glad to hear that, and hoped care would be taken that extra representation was given to labour, co-operative and friendly societies, and organisations of that kind. He urged that the policy of the Education Department should be to encourage as far as possible the common education of all classes in elementary schools, and to secure that the secondary schools were in direct relation with the elementary schools. In that respect Wales was far ahead of England. The number of scholars in recognised schools in receipt of grants from the Board of Education in 1904–5 was 94,000, of whom more than 32,000 were in forms below those taking the approved course. That meant that more than one-third of the children educated in those subsidised schools were really in preparatory classes; in other words, receiving elementary education under socially exclusive conditions. He might further point out that the policy of the Education Department in that regard was imitated by local education authorities throughout the country. In many cases grants intended to be devoted to secondary education were really applied to preparatory or elementary education, and had been so, as he knew, in the case of the London County Council itself. They made a grant of £10,000 to a secondary school, and that school immediately proceeded with the money to set up a kindergarten department. That sufficiently established his point, that the money given for secondary education was really applied to a very different purpose, namely, preparatory and elementary education. The effect of the Report, and also the policy of the Secondary Schools Branch of the Education Department, had been to discourage the creation of public secondary schools. When the local education authorities proposed to provide free secondary schools the Education Department insisted that at least £3 a year per scholar should be charged, and that only one school place in four should be free. It was said that it was not necessary that secondary schools should be free, because the scholarship system placed higher education within the reach of all who could profit by it. He thought the Education Department had not been well advised in discouraging the municipal authorities from erecting secondary schools. He pointed out that the present scholarships scheme was of a very meagre character. A few months ago they had a Parliamentary Return showing the extent of the provision which the scholarship schemes made throughout the country, and he found that in many places, at all events, the provision was utterly inadequate. For instance, Aston Manor had one scholarship for 12,858 children; East Ham none for 19,191; Walthamstow none for 20,141; and Portsmouth none for 26,871. Moreover, in many places, the scholarships were subject to the condition that the holder should pledge himself to become a teacher. The imposition of such a condition seriously detracted from the value of a scholarship. Further, the children of the poor did not, to any appreciable extent, obtain scholarships in those secondary schools. Therefore the scholarship system, under the conditions which at present attached to it, at all events did not effect what was sometimes contended for it, that it provided an opportunity for the higher education of all children of the poor who had real ability to make good use of it. Another question to which he desired to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention was the fact that some students, at all events, had been refused admission to the schools and colleges on the ground of their social *status*. They had had a case only the other day of a pupil teacher who on the ground of social *status* was refused admission to the Training College at Cheltenham, which was subsidised from public funds. He did not think that would be denied. It seemed to him a monstrous thing that an institution, subsidised with public money, should presume to exclude a student on such a ground. The right hon. Gentleman had said that under the existing rules there was no power to interfere, but he would very shortly be preparing a new code of rules for secondary schools and he hoped he would take good care to secure that it should not be possible in any future case for such a gross scandal as that at Cheltenham to be repeated. He hoped his right hon. friend's passing to his new office would have the effect of introducing a more democratic spirit into the Secondary Schools Branch of the Board of Education, and that they would see in future more sympathy exhibited by that branch to secondary schools. He thought it was the desire both of the House and of the country that there should be ample provision made for the higher and the highest education of the children of the poor who were prepared to make good use of it.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said that, sometimes, when he listened to debates in the House he thought what a great opening there might be for a Party who adopted as their watchword "England for the English." They were perpetually being told that none but Scotsmen were to be employed in Scotland; none but Welshmen in Wales, and none but Irishmen in Ireland. But he had never yet heard, and he was surprised that they should not hear it—he made no reference to the Treasury Bench—a similar declaration with regard to English appointments. Referring to the question of secondary education in Wales, whether this was an accurate statement, he understood that under the Intermediate Education Act Wales got for secondary education a special grant, and in addition a share of the general grant given for education in Great Britain. English secondary education had been content as was usual with only a share of the second of these grants, and had had nothing analogous to the first grant. Yet he was told that the purposes for which Wales got a double set of grants were substantially, if not altogether, similar to those for which the English authorities received only a single set of grants. If that were so, it was an injustice to England, which was at least equal to the injustices to other parts of the Kingdom of which they sometimes heard so much. For the first time they had to consider the creation of a special Welsh Department. The subject required careful attention from the House. It was certainly not going to be a cheap proceeding. There would be a Chief Inspector at £1,200 a year, though no other inspector had more than £1,000. It was true that the Welsh Chief Inspector had under his control a certain amount of secondary education.

MR. MCKENNA: The whole of it.

LORD R. CECIL said that, on the other hand, he had an infinitely smaller number of elementary schools—something like a tenth of the public elementary schools which a similar officer had to deal with in England. And the new Chief of the Welsh Department, not to be outdone by his colleague and compatriot, had also £1,200 a year, and was put over a separate district—for it was nothing more—of the education of Wales. An assistant secretary got only £900 a year for dealing with a similar district in England, whereas he would have £1,200 for dealing with similar districts in Wales. He understood that these gentleman had been imported into the office, and the only excuse offered for their importation was that they were Welshmen. He was quite sure that the right hon. Gentleman would not say that there were not perfectly qualified persons in the Education Department at that moment to discharge the duties of the Welsh Department. On the contrary, these Welsh gentlemen, whatever their qualifications might be, had had no experience whatever of the administration of the Education Department, and he heard that one of them had some difficulty in expressing himself in the Welsh language. He wished to know if a third official who was to be imported into the Education Department was also a Welshman, and if so, who he was, and what his duties and his salary would be. That was the financial side of the question; he wished to draw attention to a different aspect. The new Department would exercise in regard to Wales the duties which the present Education Department exercised in regard to England. It would act quite independently of the Permanent Secretary of the Education Department. It was to have all the ordinary jurisdiction of the Department and was responsible alone to the right hon. Gentleman. What were the duties of the Education Department material to the present discussion? They were multifarious. One of the duties was to act in a quasi-judicial capacity whenever matters of complaint were brought forward by managers or others interested in public elementary education. More particularly they had to decide between the managers and the local education authorities. That was a power specifically given to the education authority by Section 7 of the Act of 1902. It was a power which was often invoked, and it was of the utmost importance that it should be discharged and administered impartially, and without any suspicion of bias. It was not enough that the decision should be given impartially; it must be given by men who commanded universal confidence. It was of the first importance in regard to this Welsh Department that they should select gentlemen who were known to be absolutely impartial, and who would enjoy the confidence of the managers of the non-provided schools, and those interested in that particular department of public elementary education. He wished to ask whether those conditions had been fulfilled or not. The Chief Inspector would not have those duties so much thrust upon him, because he would be more of an executive officer, but he was an ex-Radical candidate. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"]

MR. MCKENNA: He was a Member.

LORD ROBERT CECIL: Yes, he was a Radical Member, but no doubt he possessed other qualifications. The other gentleman who had been appointed was without doubt a man of great ability, but as a matter of fact he was a Radical representative and the Chairman of the Denbighshire County Council. He would remind the House that that was one of the county councils which joined with the right hon. Gentleman who now presided over the Education Department and the President of the Board of Trade in what was known as the Welsh Revolt. He was, therefore, not surprised to read in the *Manchester Guardian*, which was regarded in the district as the organ of the Liberal Government, these words—

> "The appointment of Mr. A. T. Davies as Permanent Secretary is a guarantee that a policy of resolute administration will be pursued with respect to the elementary schools, and that the county councils may rely upon staunch support from Whitehall in their efforts to establish effective public control over every type of school with which they have to deal. Mr. Davies' record as an active member of the Denbighshire Education Committee is such as to inspire the confidence of all progressive Welsh educationists."

[MINISTERIAL cheers.] Those cheers were not at all unexpected by him, but he would like to remind the House what the situation really was. In the great majority of the county councils of Wales there was a strong majority elected because they were hostile to the Church of England schools in the Principality. The function of the Education Department would be to hold the balance even between the voluntary schools and the local education authorities, when the latter attempted to oppress the former. The House was probably familiar with what had been happening in Swansea, where the local authority had over and over again avowedly attempted to treat the Church of England and the Roman Catholic schools there with gross injustice, but had been restrained by the interference of the Education Department. What confidence could the managers of such schools have in a gentleman whose record was such as he had indicated to the House? He did not know whether hon. Members were aware of what the Welsh Revolt amounted to. It was a conspiracy to evade the law. It had three principal objects, but its avowed object was, if possible to squeeze the voluntary schools out of existence, and it proposed to accomplish that by three different methods. In the first place, it resolved that no rate should be levied in favour of voluntary schools. It would be remembered that that course was considered by an English county council, who went to the extent of obtaining legal opinion on the subject. Of course they were told that it was illegal and the matter was dropped. There was a modification of the policy of that plan known as the Cardiff policy, which was adopted at a great meeting presided over by the President of the Board of Trade, and the President of the Board of Education was on the platform. It was proposed at that meeting that they should cease to maintain all schools if the Default Act was put into operation. The third method was to impose upon voluntary schools such heavy building requirements as they would not be able to fulfil and in consequence of which they would cease to exist. That was the policy with which the present President of the Board of Edution and another Cabinet Minister were identified, and now they had appointed as

Secretary of the Welsh Department a third gentleman identified with the same policy. That was a great misuse of political power. [MINISTERIAL laughter.] He did not think hon. Members opposite would laugh if such a thing were done by a Conservative Government, and they might search the records of Conservative Governments in vain for a similar state of affairs. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"] He was sure it would be difficult to find two Cabinet Ministers connected with a conspiracy to evade the law forming part of a Government which appointed a permanent official who had also been connected with the same policy. It was impossible for voluntary schools to have any degree of confidence in the impartiality of such an official. He strongly protested against the creation of this Department at a very considerable expense, and under the circumstances it would certainly be regarded by the country and by Wales as a mere means of rewarding the political associates of the Government.

*DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford) called attention to the importance of including hygiene and temperance in the Education Code. Its necessity had been fully realised by the medical profession, and the heavy death-rate among children conclusively proved that something ought to be done in that direction. They felt that a large number of deaths occurred which could be prevented and that a much larger number of children ought to be raised to health and maturity in this country. They had had a report from a Departmental Committee upon physical deterioration, from which they learned that there were three great factors causing degeneration and affecting large sections of the community, viz. housing, the food of the people, and alcohol. From every point of view he thought it was high time that the Board of Education should take steps to do what it could to remedy this unhappy and unsatisfactory state of affairs. Only yesterday they had had a Conference upstairs at which they received a deputation consisting of some of the leading men in the medical profession upon this interesting subject, and they asked the House to deal with the question on behalf of their profession. No less than 15,000 doctors had signed petitions asking Parliament to make the teaching of hygiene and temperance compulsory.

*MR. SPEAKER: I am afraid the matter to which the hon. Member is now referring is more a matter for legislation.

*DR. RUTHERFORD explained that what he desired was that the teaching of hygiene and temperance should be included in the Code under discussion. They wanted a medical bureau established to guide and help the Board of Education not only in regard to this matter but in regard to other important subjects. There was a medical bureau attached to the Local Government Board, and he thought it was high time they should have one attached to the Board of Education. The teaching of hygiene and temperance was being done voluntarily in a portion of the country, but it was very meagre for want of funds, and it was so small that they felt the subject ought to be tackled by the Board of Education in a more thorough and efficient manner. If hon. Members considered what other countries were doing they would find that this country was a long way behind, and in fact was in the position of a third-rate Power in this respect. France and the United States, as well as the majority of our Colonies, already had compulsory teaching on these great subjects. If such a policy was adopted in this country it would be to the advantage of the teachers as well as the scholars. The children would be interested in the demonstrations and experiments which were calculated to enlighten and stimulate their mental activities. The teachers had welcomed the subjects in every school in which they had been taught up to the present. They had been told that the Code was too big already, and that no further subjects could be added to it, but surely some of the subjects of less value to the children, to the parents and to the nation might be struck out in favour of hygiene and temperance. He hoped the President of the Board of Education would avail himself of this golden opportunity of making some changes in the important direction which he had indicated.

MR. McKENNA: I am sorry to intervene between some of my hon. friends and the House, but as a great number of topics have been raised it is more convenient that I should reply to some of them at once. The hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University opened the discussion by referring to the socialistic and secularist teaching in certain council schools. If he had said council school buildings his statement would have been more exact, because the buildings are the property not of the Board of Education, but of the local education authority. I interrupted the hon. Baronet and asked him if he could inform me what powers I possessed to prevent the state of things of which he complained. I simply wanted to know from him with his long experience at the Board of Education any way of putting a stop to the evils of this teaching. These socialistic and secularist Sunday schools were opened during the time the hon. Baronet was himself at the Board. He holds very strong opinions on the subject. He believes that the best way of suppressing these doctrines is by forbidding them to be taught. I am not sure that he is right. I am not sure that free speech even in these matters——

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The right hon. Gentleman is misrepresenting me. I only complained that these doctrines were being taught in schools built by the ratepayers, without the approval of the ratepayers. I had no desire to suppress the expression of opinion on the subject.

MR. McKENNA: Then we are entirely at one on that point, and the only question is what are the powers of the Board for dealing with the matter. The application, according to the minutes of the London County Council, was laid before them on 14th June, 1904, while the hon. Baronet was at the Board of Education; the application was acceded to by the London County Council, and the school building was let on Sundays for the purpose which he has described. There were eighteen months during which he might have enlightened himself whether the Board had any power of dealing with the matter. I have been there one month, and during my researches I have found no power to enable me to deal with the matter. I appeal to him to give me the benefit of his great experience, and to tell me what power I have to do what he asks. It is a question for the ratepayers of London as represented by the London County Council, and if he wishes to interfere, all that he has got to do is to apply to the Moderate majority of the County Council and get them to act. It is not a matter for the Education Department to consider at all. The hon. Baronet went on to refer to the Welsh Department, and was followed—I must say, with a certain amount of more bitterness—by the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone. The noble Lord seemed to regard Welsh education as nothing but a subject of controversy. He considers that the appointments made to the chief Welsh Offices were made solely from that point of view. He is entirely mistaken. He gravely said that one of the qualifications of Mr. Owen Edwards was that he had once been a Radical candidate.

LORD R. CECIL: I never said so. What I said was that Mr. Edwards was in fact a Radical candidate, but that no doubt he possessed other qualifications.

MR. McKENNA: As an Oxford man himself, the noble Lord must know as well as possible of the services of Mr. Edwards. He knows that Mr. Edwards's whole career has been apart from controversial topics, and that he has been devoted to Welsh education because of his earnest desire to improve the educational system of his country. It was for that reason he was appointed and for no other. As to Mr. Davies, he has been known to Members of the Government and to a large circle of people throughout Wales as a most capable administrator and lawyer. He appeared to me the most suitable man the Board could appoint for the important duties he has to perform. It is not easy to find any man outside and take him into the Civil Service and expect him to get an immediate grasp of the whole of the business of that service. We believe that Mr. Davies is a man of such great capacity, industry, and integrity, that he will be a first-rate capable public servant. We do not think or anticipate that this unhappy controversial period in Wales is going to continue for very long. We believe, hope, and expect that the controversial stage of the educational question will be settled in a very few years. The Welsh Department has been devised for the purpose of organising Welsh education, not merely now, but for the future, in order to establish Welsh education upon a basis better fitted for the needs of the Welsh people. Those are the only grounds upon which the appointments have been made, and I assure the noble Lord that the appointments have not been made for the reasons he thinks. We have sought and, I believe, we have obtained the best and most suitable men for the posts.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): Is this Mr. Davies a solicitor?

MR. McKENNA: Yes, he is a solicitor.

SIR F. BANBURY: What is the name of his firm?

MR. McKENNA: I think he has no firm now.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): Who are his London agents?

MR. McKENNA: Does the hon. Gentleman by that mean to imply that the reason I appointed Mr. Davies was that his London agents are the firm with which the President of the Board of Trade was connected?

MR. RAWLINSON: The right hon. Gentleman has referred all the way through to the fact that Mr. Davies was known to members of the Government. Why not tell us at once who he was?

MR. McKENNA: The hon. and learned Gentleman does not answer my question. I leave it to the House who heard the insinuation. I can only say that when I appointed Mr. Davies I did not know he had ever been associated with any member of the Government in any firm of solicitors. I did not know who his London agents were. The hon. Member may accept that from me or not, but those are the facts.

MR. RAWLINSON: I accept that at once from the right hon. Gentleman; I thought he would have been aware of it.

MR. McKENNA: I was not aware of it, but if I had been aware of it, it would have made not the least difference. I have been asked why the chief inspector in Wales is going to receive so large a salary as £1,200 per annum. Mr. Owen Edwards is the chief inspector in Wales, and will have duties quite different from those of the chief inspectors in England. The duties of the chief inspectors in England are confined respectively to the elementary, secondary, and technical grades. In Wales it will not be so. There will be one chief inspector of all the three grades together. Mr. Edwards will have duties which do not ordinarily fall to chief inspectors. He will be responsible for duties, by reason of the constitution of the new department, which will entail upon him a knowledge and sacrifice of time which are not entailed upon ordinary inspectors. I think we ought to be very well satisfied with having secured Mr. Edwards' services for the sum named. It is not an excessive salary. The noble Lord said that the only "excuse" he had heard for the appointment of these gentlemen was that they were Welshmen. That is not an "excuse," it is a qualification. When I went to the Board I found that my predecessor had promised to establish a Welsh Department. Naturally my first question was, "What Welshmen have we got in the service of the Board now?"

LORD R. CECIL: Why?

MR. McKENNA: Because I conceived that when we were establishing a Welsh Department, we should put one or two Welshmen in it. That appears to me to be most reasonable.

LORD R. CECIL: Does the right hon. Gentleman think that anybody has been appointed to a post in the Education Department because he is an Englishman?

MR. McKENNA: Will the noble Lord allow me to finish? I asked what Welshmen were already in the service of the

Board, and I was told that there were none. So little had Wales absorbed the services of the English Department covering the services of both England and Wales that there was no Welshman there at all. They were all Englishmen. The noble Lord asks: Why should Welshmen be appointed? The sole ground of instituting a separate Welsh Department is to have in control of Welsh education persons who have some knowledge of Wales. After all, if it were true that Wales was merely a collection of English counties, there would be no reason for appointing a separate Welsh Department at all. If the noble Lord had heard the interesting speech of my hon. friend the Member for Bethnal Green, he would have heard figures quoted which go to the root of the differences between England and Wales. In England there is a very large and, comparatively speaking, wealthy middle class, and very large educational endowments, and the English system of education has been more or less adapted, be it good or bad, to the existing social grades. But in Wales the conditions are quite different; there the middle class is comparatively very small, and on the whole not rich, and there have been very few endowments. But the mass of the Welsh people have an ardour for education which is not shared by their fellow-countrymen in England; although poor and although they have not the same large leaven of the middle classes as in England, the artisans are willing to make sacrifices for education, with the result that a much larger proportion of the people in Wales are willing to maintain their children at school till they are fifteen or sixteen than is the case in England. Consequently we have to provide secondary schools for the Welsh people of a type which is not required, and cannot be filled, in England. As these fundamental differences exist, the types of school in the two countries have to be fundamentally different, and it is because of this that my predecessor, whose policy in that respect I venture heartily to commend, proposed to set up a different Education Department for Wales. As to the expenditure on this Department, it amounts to very little. We have appointed three new officers, two at a salary of £1,200 a year and a junior examiner at £200 or £250. But on the expiration of the term of office the post of one of the chief inspectors will lapse, and we hope to effect the reduction of another inspector. So that, on balance, the whole of this fuss is made about one new appointment. We hope when the scheme is in full working order it will be found on balance to impose no additional cost, but in any circumstances the cost will not be more than a few hundreds a year. Mr. Davies has a knowledge of Welsh, but, as he will be retained in London, Welsh is not required there. It is of course necessary that the inspectors in Wales should speak Welsh. We have nothing to conceal in this matter. Mr. T. G. Roberts has been on the Board of Education list for appointment for a number of years, and I hope that hereafter when a vacancy occurs we shall appoint a new English examiner. The Board has declined to sanction the proposal of Cardiff to make Welsh a compulsory subject, and as at present advised we do not propose to alter that decision. Turning to the Consultative Committee, that body is an advisory committee, whose reports are not necessarily adopted by the Board although they are published by the Board. Taking advantage of the incidental occurrence of several vacancies on that committee, and looking to its present constitution, I wish to seek power to enlarge its numbers. I hope to add two more elementary teachers, one being a woman, and two representatives of the parents of children who attend elementary schools. I am quite sure that when the names are given to the House they will prove satisfactory to hon. Members and to the country. We regret extremely that the Chairman of the Committee, Sir W. Hart Dyke, who has rendered most admirable service, has been compelled, partly owing to age, as he stated, and partly to outside work, to withdraw from the Committee. As to the policy of the Board in encouraging children to go from primary to secondary schools, I admit at once that our system has not been as satisfactory as most of us could wish. I do not suppose that there is a single hon. Gentleman in the House who at one time or another in public meetings has not referred with eulogy to the educational ladder, by means of which children of the humblest parentage may be enabled to attain the highest positions in the educational world. We have all said that at one time or another. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] Well, most of us, and I am sure that any effort genuinely to carry out that policy will have the support of the majority of hon. Members of the House. But it must be a genuine ladder. If you are to enable the children of working men to reach a University education you must have good schools for such children as show ability to go to. But the question of good schools immediately impinges on the subject of fees, because you cannot get good schools without paying for them, and neither endowments nor Government grants are sufficient to maintain good secondary schools. I hope to see good secondary schools maintained, whether by the assistance of fees or not. In the allocation to such schools of any new grants which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has enabled me this year to promise, I hope to make it a condition that a sufficient number of places shall be reserved for children from the public elementary schools who show sufficient capacity to avail themselves of the advantage of a good secondary education. We do not necessarily want to abolish fees *qua* fees, because if we did, since in most cases neither the endowments nor the grants suffice for maintenance, we should only be establishing inferior secondary schools. By the provision of a sufficient number of free places for public elementary scholars we hope to place within the grasp of poor children of ability as good an education as is open to the children of the richest.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): Will they be scholarships?

MR. McKENNA: It will certainly be a free education, whether the name scholarship is used or not, and the children will qualify by examination. The question of any maintenance allowance will be one for the local education authority. In answer to a question on the subject of children being refused admission to subsidised schools on social grounds, I have stated our views on that matter. It came upon the Board entirely as a surprise, and I shall certainly see that in the regulations in future such acts of oppression as that are provided against. In conclusion I have only to reply to the observations of my hon. friend the Member for the Brentford Division of Middlesex on the subject of the compulsory teaching of hygiene and temperance in every school in the country. If you are going to teach hygiene and temperance you must have teachers who are properly fitted to teach them. At present these subjects are optional, but I can assure the hon. Member that I am giving my most earnest attention to the matter, and that everything is being done to qualify teachers who will be able to give instruction in these branches of knowledge. Beyond that it is impossible for me at present to say anything. I thank the House for the attention with which they have listened to me.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said the President of the Board of Education had ignored an extremely important and notable part of the speech of the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone, and he could not believe that the right hon. Gentleman had ignored it because he was not conscious of its gravity. The House ought to watch with great jealousy the creation of all new appointments, especially when it was intended to make them permanent. What the noble Lord said was that one of the gentlemen appointed had taken a prominent part in a conspiracy to evade the law. The right hon. Gentleman had not controverted that. They, therefore, had as a permanent addition to the Civil Service, not a gentleman brought up and trained in that Service, but a gentleman who could not be expected to administer with an impartial hand the controversial matters with which he would have to deal.

MR. McKENNA, interposing, said he had omitted to mention the fact that the noble Lord was mistaken in supposing that Mr. Davies was chairman of the Denbighshire County Council.

MR. CARLILE (St. Albans): He was a prominent member of that Council.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said it was not denied that Mr. Davies was a prominent member in the Welsh agitation, and the technical point of whether he was or was not the chairman of the County Council was hardly worthy of an interruption. This was a new appointment for which were required qualities which might be fairly described as almost judicial in their character, for the new secretary would have to hold the scales evenly between the two contending parties. If the Government had taken the gentleman in question and placed him on the Treasury Bench it would have been a different thing, for then he could have been tackled and removed if the House were dissatisfied with him. But if they wished the Civil Service to be what it had always been—removed altogether from Party—such an appointment ought not to have been made. The right hon. Gentleman wished the new department to command public confidence, and to be permanent in its character. Did he suppose, however, if he made appointments of this kind that he would not lay himself open to reprisals? Did he suppose the manner in which the powers of the new office were exercised would not be very closely watched with a view to the termination of the appointment when the time and opportunity came? He regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had ignored that part of the attack upon his policy.

Sir G. KEKEWICH (Exeter) said he had some knowledge of the formation of the Board of Education in Scotland, and the question which had been raised in regard to the establishment of the Welsh Department carried his mind back to that period. It was many years ago, but a precisely similar objection was raised in that case to that now urged in regard to the Welsh Board. So far as he remembered, no Englishman was appointed on the Board in the case of Scotland—they were all Scotsmen—and he asked why the heads of the Welsh Department should not be all Welshmen? The head of that Scottish Department was now the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, and the result of the establishment of the department in Scotland had undoubtedly been good. He thought the result of there being only one department dealing with educational matters in England, Scotland and Wales had been to sterilise the work. There was nothing so vigorous, in his opinion, as a small new department, and he therefore rejoiced from the educational point of view that the new Welsh Department had been established. The agitation had been going on for over twenty years, and personally he was glad to see the Welsh work separated from that of the English Department. With regard to scholarships for children coming from elementary schools, they would be of very little use if they merely extended to the remission of fees. What was really wanted was that they should enable the clever child to climb to that position in education for which he was most fitted and which would enable him to arrive at that position in society in which he might be of the greatest benefit to the State.

Sir ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorganshire, E.) expressed his delight at the important statement which the right hon. Gentleman had made, and said the Welsh Members were all very pleased that a Welsh Education Department should be set up. They were far from believing that the two gentlemen appointed were not exactly the gentlemen to fill their positions. The step was one of the results of the great agitation which had been going on in Wales for many years past, and although he himself had taken part in that agitation and in the revolt against the Education Bill of the last Government, he never heard of Mr. Davies taking any part whatever in the movement as an advocate. He looked forward with great expectations to the formation of the Welsh Department and what it would mean for education in Wales.

Mr. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) said that though the hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University had described as a public scandal the use of elementary school houses on Sundays for the teaching of Socialist ideas, the grant of the schools for that particular purpose was made while the Unionist Government was in power. It was well known that Church schools were used for Primrose League meetings.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Not on Sundays.

MR. SUMMERBELL said it was immaterial to the point whether they were so used on a Sunday or on any other day of the week. He repeated that the voluntary schools had been used and were being used for political purposes, and he did not see any distinction between using them on Sundays and on any other day. The schools were not in use at the particular time they were wanted; they were paid for by the people and were the property of the ratepayers. He hoped therefore the right hon. Gentleman would not interfere with any education authority in the country in regard to the use of a school for any purpose, political or otherwise, so long as it did not interfere with the use of the school in school hours. He was afraid that when the speech of the hon. Member for Oxford University was summed up it would be found that it was not altogether a question of whether it was right to use a school for teaching any particular code. The hon. Baronet had described it as a perfect scandal. Did he know that a committee of experts had drawn up the code to be taught at those schools and that a better moral code could not be found? He defied the hon. Baronet to find a better moral code than that taught in the City of London by the Socialist body. He looked forward to the time when the education authorities throughout the country would grant the use of the schools, when they were not being used for school purposes, not only to political parties, but to trade, friendly, and other societies. There were to-day a number of trade and friendly societies which were compelled to hold their meetings on licensed property though the schools were empty. He hoped the President of the Board of Education would not accept the advice that had been given to him to interfere with the liberty of any local education authority in regard to granting the use of schools so long as what was taught was of a high moral character.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he was glad to hear the character which had been given to Mr. Davies by the hon. Member for East Glamorganshire and he only hoped it was justified by the right hon. Gentleman's knowledge and acquaintance with him. He did not, however, feel satisfied with all that had been said by the right hon. Gentleman as to the selection of Mr. Davies. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he was the most suitable man he could find for the appointment. What steps had been taken to ascertain that fact? The present action had no parallel with what was done upon the separation of the Scottish Department, because that was done by statute in 1885, and the head of that Department was appointed from the Education Department, taken from inside and not from outside at all. He did not know Mr. Davies, and that gentleman might have better qualifications than the right hon. Gentleman was able to attribute to him, but one of the right hon. Gentleman's points was that he had a knowledge of the administration of education from the Welsh point of view. He did not know that it could be said that he represented the Welsh point of view, because the seat he occupied on the county council was captured at the last election by a person of opposite opinions. The right hon. Gentleman then said there was no Welshman in the Education Department, but he did not say there was no man in that Department, not Welsh, who was good enough for the position. After all, the Education Department was practically open to all, and Welshmen had an equal chance to compete with Englishmen for places in it. One would have thought that the one qualification for a Welshman filling the post in question would have been that he could speak Welsh. That Mr. Davies did not seem to be able to do. The right hon. Gentleman had given very little proof of sufficient trouble having been taken to ascertain how many men were capable of filling the post, and he (Mr. Bridgeman) thought it had been filled up in a hurry and without proper consideration. He was not quite satisfied either with the answers of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to scholarships. The right hon. Gentleman had said he was making a lot of free places in the higher and secondary schools. That was not quite enough, because it would not give a fair chance to those children who were really poor. Children of poor parents had something else to consider besides free education. What would help them would be something that represented part if not all that the students would be earning if they were not at school. He did not believe so much in multiplying the number of free scholarships as in making the scholarships really worth having. Furthermore it was ridiculous to expect the rural child to compete with the town child in that matter, and it was important to have teachers in rural schools who knew something about rural life and who had come from the rural schools themselves. Some scholarships should be allotted for such children. He also thought the right hon. Gentleman had made a poor defence with regard to the grants for secondary education in Wales when he said it was right to encourage the Welsh because they were very keen about education. Was it wrong to encourage anybody else? If it was wrong there was no excuse for spending money on education in any place where the right hon. Gentleman thought people were not keen. To encourage education equal opportunities ought to be given in those places where it might be supposed that the aspirations of the people were not so high. If it was the fact that very little inducement was required in Wales to make children go to secondary schools, then it was right to give equal opportunity in England. The Board of Education had never given the same opportunities to the English children as had been given in Wales. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman had in the least answered the questions put to him, and it seemed to him that the educational ladder that the right hon. Gentleman proposed to make so effective was only to be made effective in Wales.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said he had listened with admiration and pleasure to the President of the Board of Education in his first speech on the Education Estimates. But there was one point on which he dissented from him when he said that the working classes of this country were not so likely to send their children to the secondary or higher schools as were the working classes of Wales. That was an assertion which could be not made with exactitude or fairness until a test had been applied. The complaint against the administration of the secondary schools branch of the Education Department was that since the Board had had to do with secondary education and administering the grants, they had done exactly the opposite of making it easier for working class parents to send their children to secondary schools and had done all they could to dissuade them from doing so. They had put obstacles in the way of children going from the elementary to the secondary schools. His right hon. friend had, on the whole, very ably justified his appointments to the Welsh Department of the Board of Education; he had said that he wanted to have somebody there who knew something about the schools and about the Welsh spirit of education. He would ask him to look at the Secondary Schools Branch of the Board of Education from that point of view. Nobody there had practical experience of the spirit of modern secondary education. He had well-meaning officials there, whose experience had been entirely confined to public schools and the older type of secondary education. When secondary education was mentioned to them, they thought of the Eton, Rugby, and Harrow type of education. When they were asked to give money to a secondary school they made regulations suited to some old grammar school, some little Eton, Rugby or Harrow school, and those regulations were wholly unsuited to the children of working class parents. What was wanted was two ladders—one leading from the gutter to the wall of the University, a ladder by which the child of the poorest workman, born with capacity, could ascend to the University, and afterwards enter one of the learned professions. Such a child might be a born commentator, preacher, teacher, or writer, and the ladder from the gutter to the University should be there for him. They also wanted a ladder leading from the University to some place where technicological knowledge could be obtained —a Charlottenburg or a Leipsic. The

Association of Education Committees had adopted regulations for their local schools that would lead in the direction he had pointed out, but they had been again and again met by the refusal of the Secondary Schools Branch of the Board of Education, the refusal being based on the old Eton and Rugby idea of secondary education, which was entirely useless and repugnant to the present needs of the country as a whole. His complaint was that the Secondary Schools Branch of the Department was out of touch, out of harmony and sympathy with the times, and he would suggest to his right hon. friend that he should revise that branch of his Department on the same principle as he had applied to the Welsh branch. It was not only a question of the maintenance of scholarships, but they had narrowed and confined pupil-teacher centres and training colleges, because they were to produce the teachers for an inferior type of school. Speaking from a complete knowledge of these matters he would guarantee to bring before the right hon. Gentleman a deputation of the highest authorities interested in pupil-teacher centres, training colleges, and secondary schools throughout the country, who would tell him that things had been mismanaged from top to bottom by an unsympathetic Secondary Schools Branch of the Board of Education, manned by the wrong kind of people, not wrong because they had not ability, but wrong because they had no experience as members of town councils or county councils or education committees, and no knowledge or experience whatever as to the administration or teaching of modern secondary schools. When they were asked to permit a certain number of free places to be made in the secondary schools, the Secondary Schools Branch of the Department said that they could not allow more than 25 per cent. of the places to be free, and when it was pointed out that freedom for more than 25 per cent. was wanted, the Department said, "You shall not do it; if you do we will withdraw our Grant." When it was said, "We want to manage the secondary schools by a Committee of ourselves," the Board replied, "No, you must appoint a board of governors; we must put a buffer between you on the one hand and the masters of schools on the other." They were to appoint governors for no other reason except that these gentlemen had always been accustomed to schools with governors, and, because that had always been the way for old endowed schools, it must also be the way for modern schools, paid for out of the rates, and catering for another class of children than those who went to the endowed schools. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he would never get a proper condition of the secondary schools branch of the Board of Education until he had somebody there who knew England and its modern wants, exactly as the Welsh Department knew what was wanted in Wales.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could give some general indication of the policy which his Department had determined to adopt on the question of school buildings. The case of National School No. 66, at Chippenham, had excited a good deal of attention. Very properly the authorities said the school must be repaired, and the Board of Education seemed to have taken a rather severe line in the matter. When the Education Bill was being discussed last year, and it was not known whether it would be passed or not, the Board of Education found it almost impossible to bring severe pressure to bear on non-provided schools. The Bill having failed to become law, however, the Board wrote to the school at Chippenham on December 16th last year, and told them that unless the necessary repairs were promptly made, the school would be closed on December 31st. He submitted that as the Board while the Bill was before Parliament had rightly agreed to hold their hand, it was rather hard to come down upon this particular school at Chippenham on December 16th and say that the school would be closed on December 31st if they did not do the repairs. What he wanted to know from the Parliamentary Secretary was whether equality of treatment would be meted out all round; and to illustrate that he would quote a letter from the *Manchester Guardian* of February 12th.

The education authority of Anglesey had had the same difficulty as Chippenham in respect of its schools. The Board of Education had pressed the committee in Anglesey to put their schools in a state of repair, but, in contrast with the treatment of Chippenham, permission had been given to the Anglesey authorities to spread the work over seven years. It was alleged that the people in Anglesey were not perfectly sincere and genuine in their desire to put the schools right, but he thought they were as keen on education in Anglesey as in central or southern Wales. Would the right hon. Gentleman give some assurance that whilst allowing Welsh schools seven years to effect repairs he would also allow similar treatment to non-provided schools in England? If the President of the Board of Education would treat non-provided schools in England as his Board was now treating them in Wales he would remove much controversy and allay a good deal of anxiety. He also asked what was the reason for increasing the Vote for training colleges from £15,000 to £150,000. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman upon having been able to persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer to increase that Vote 1,000 per cent., but he would like to have some explanation of the large increase. When the revision of the terms took place under which the local authorities managed their own training centres he remembered that hopes were expressed that further assistance would be forthcoming from the Treasury. He did not, however, see where the claim for the £150,000 came in, because it was not for buildings, but for the ordinary maintenance grant, and on the face of it the amount appeared to be excessive. The other charge was of a highly contentious character. There was a new charge of £100,000 for the special provision of new schools. In reply to a Question they had been told that that provision was made in order to contribute to a solution of the single school area difficulty, and he understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that the money would be granted where there was an effective or overwhelming demand from the parents to have the single school area difficulty removed. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman was going to assist himself or his friends by this grant. Who was to have it? How many single school areas were there in England and Wales, and what was the scheme by which the money would be allotted? He ventured to say that in any parish where there was single schools, but where there was none the less no single school grievance, it would not be difficult to get all the parents to sign a petition to the Board of Education in favour of the erection of a brand new up-to-date school in their midst. What did that £100,000 represent? At the very outside it did not mean accommodation for more than 10,000 children, and that was only allowing £10 for each child accommodated. He did not know much about the cost of school accommodation in the West of England or the Midlands, but in the North of England the cost was £13, £14, or £15 per head, and he had no doubt that there were many other districts where £10 per head would not be sufficient. Did the right hon. Gentleman seriously tell the House of Commons that with a view to solving the single school area difficulty he was going to provide alternative accommodation in the whole of England and Wales by making provision for about 7,500 children? Perhaps the proposal meant that there were only 7,500 children whose parents were aggrieved in the matter, and it was thought that the proposed sum was sufficient to remove the grievance. The effect of it would be as follows: There was no county in England he supposed which had a greater grievance on paper in regard to the single school area question than Lancashire. The difficulty only existed on paper, because in actual working there was no difficulty whatever. Several hon. Members who supported the Government were members of the elementary education committee in his county, and he was sure they would be ready to bear him out when he said that it would be impossible for Conservatives, Liberals, advanced Socialists, and reactionary Tories to sit together as they now did upon that committee and administer any Act of Parliament with more harmony than was actually the case in Lancashire to-day. As far as the amount of the grant was concerned, they could comfortably spend

£100,000 in providing new schools in Lancashire alone. He was confident that Lancashire would get its share of the grant, but instead of removing the difficulty it would only accentuate it, and in many cases create it, in Lancashire. One parish would get a new school out of Imperial funds whilst the next parish would be told that the fund was exhausted. That would occur all over the country. It would be sure to create local jealousy and friction, and unless the £100,000 was the first instalment of a gigantic sum of £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 he could not help thinking that the right hon. Gentleman would fail to remove the difficulty. No doubt they would have further opportunities of obtaining fuller information as to the distribution of the money, but his chief anxiety at that moment was to ask the right hon. Gentleman if in the matter of repairs, maintenance, and so on, he would treat the voluntary non-provided schools of England in the same way as he treated the Welsh schools.

*Mr. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln) said he wished to revert to the subject of the teaching of hygiene and temperance in the schools. He desired to thank the right hon. Gentleman for his sympathetic reply, because there was a feeling that in the past the Board of Education had not been wholly sympathetic in regard to the question and had not given much encouragement to that kind of teaching. He could mention instances in proof of his statement if necessary. He did not know whether, after all, the sympathetic reply of the right hon. Gentleman carried them much further. They had been told that they must wait until the teachers were qualified in those subjects, and that might be a very long time indeed. He could assure the President of the Board of Education that there was a strong feeling amongst a considerable section of hon. Members that there should be no further delay in the matter, and it was important that it should be dealt with at once. Whilst visiting the United States a short time ago he inquired into the question and asked how it was that they were able to get teachers qualified in those two special subjects. The answer he received was that as soon as the subjects were placed in the curriculum the teachers qualified themselves, and that was what he believed would happen in this country. They had training centres for teachers already established in the subjects, and he had in his possession a syllabus specially prepared for the training of teachers by the committee of the medical profession of which Sir William Broadbent was the chairman, and which had the assistance of other eminent doctors, and represented the 14,000 doctors who presented the memorial to the Education Department. He thought he was right in saying that the local education authorities had power to pay without fear of surcharge for the training of their teachers in those centres. He hoped that was so. He believed that if the President of the Board of Education would put the matter into the Code there would be no difficulty, and the teachers would qualify themselves rapidly. He wished to emphasise one point. They did not wish, so far as temperance teaching was concerned, to advocate the preaching of any partisan views, or the teaching of views which were not supported by the best medical opinion. He thought the President of the Board of Education might be safe in feeling that nothing overstated would be taught, and that the instruction would be imparted without bias in a scientific spirit. The matter could be dealt with by means of legislation. He hoped that that would not be necessary, but there might be opportunities in the course of the coming session to deal with it by means of legislation in connection with other Bills now before the House. He hoped that in view of the strong medical opinion as to the necessity of impressing the rising generation with some elementary knowledge of the laws of health, the President of the Board of Education would do all that was desired by a stroke of his own pen and not leave it to be dealt by special legislative measures.

Mr. FLETCHER (Hampstead) appealed to the President of the Board of Education with respect to a limited but very deserving class of servants who, he thought, had been subjected to injustice. He referred to the temporary copyists whose case was dealt with many years ago and who, he was told, were now being permanently retired from their duties. They were not entitled to pensions, nor did he plead for any pensions for them. According to the arrangement made fourteen years ago they were to be entitled to a gratuity of £100. A number of men whose average age was seventy-four years, and whose average service had been thirty-four years, were to be retired. He asked whether it would not be consistent with fair dealing that those who had served over twenty years should be granted a larger gratuity. He thought if the right hon. Gentleman could make it £200 he would remove the sore feeling at present entertained by the copyists that they had not been fairly treated.

*Mr. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) said there was no matter of more importance than the organisation of secondary education, because, among other reasons, the legislation of 1902 and certain Minutes of the Board of Education in 1900 had really had the effect of limiting in more ways than one the scope of elementary education. It was a melancholy fact that some English county councils had been willing to spend their grants in aid of the rates rather than in the development of technical and secondary education. In England there was not the public spirit behind the councils to the same extent as in Wales, and the problem of secondary education would hardly be advanced until that public spirit was aroused. The policy of the Board of Education had, in too many instances, tended to retard and discourage the development of that public spirit, because through some of the regulations there ran the idea that a small amount of elementary education was sufficient for most people, and that those who were to have higher education were to be picked boys and girls, not in large numbers, for whom a system of scholarships was all that could be provided. There was widespread public discontent in the matter which prevented an uprising of the public interest in secondary education such as there was in Wales, where, too, that interest had been further stimulated by the system of intermediate education. He hoped his right hon. friend would see that the rungs of the educational ladder were not too far apart, because it was important that others besides the picked boys and girls should be able to climb. He hoped the Board of Education would not be dominated too much by the notion that secondary education was only for a limited number of picked children, but that they would rather aim at raising the standard of education generally throughout the country. The system by which comparatively a handful of picked children got scholarships and went into the secondary schools tended also to foster rather than to hinder class distinctions, which were already so great a hindrance to our educational progress. In Scotland, there was not the same acuteness of class distinction founded on extreme differences of educational training, and he hoped that the Board of Education would do all that it could to hinder, and not to foster, that unfortunate tradition in English education. The right hon. Gentleman did not wonder that strong opposition was felt at much that was in the Report of the Advisory Committee. In regard to the suggestions in the Report that secondary education was almost entirely a preparation for some particular walk of life, he hoped that what the Board of Education would increasingly try to effect was that, whether they were designing schools for boys leaving at fourteen or fifteen to earn their livelihood or schools intended for those who stayed longer, they would have regard not only to the training appropriate to particular occupations in life, but also to those sides of study important to all citizens, women as well as men. They must recognise that national education as given in the elementary schools, although given very carefully by most devoted teachers, was to the overwhelming body of the public an education which stopped short before the gates of knowledge were fully opened. He urged the Minister for Education not to lose sight of that aspect of secondary education which might not be translated so readily into terms of higher wages, greater salaries, or accumulated capital, but was every bit as necessary for the culture and happiness of human life. Although he fully recognised how complicated and difficult the question was, he was sure the right hon. Gentleman would try to make education more democratic and to give it wider and more varied scope. The House would look forward with some anxiety and great hope to the rules he had promised to bring forward.

*Sir HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) wished to call the attention of the House to a question closely connected with that which they had been discussing, but which related more particularly to Scotland. He referred to Vote 7 in Class IV. He was glad the Prime Minister was present, because he might be successful in appealing to the pity of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to a matter upon which unjust treatment had been accorded to Scotland. Of the £201,000 voted for the universities and colleges of Great Britain and for intermediate education in Wales, the Scottish universities received £42,000. That sum was secured to the Scottish universities under the Act of 1889. He was sure that the Prime Minister would agree with him that that Act did not give a gracious grant, but simply repaid to the Scottish universities funds which belonged to them and which had been transmitted to them from the seventeenth century for certain properties transferred to the Crown, the Crown taking over certain burdens in exchange. The words of the Act of 1889 were that that sum of £42,000 was to be granted, not in satisfaction of future claims, but simply to meet past and existing claims of the Scottish universities. That £42,000 was no concession; no grant by favour; and he was certain that the Scottish Members would agree with him in thinking that only represented what was the property of the Scottish universities. He turned to the rest of the £210,000, which consisted of £100,000 granted to colleges in Great Britain, £12,000 to the university and colleges in Wales, and £25,000 for intermediate education; and of the whole of that sum how much went to Scotland? He understood that grudgingly £1,000 had hitherto been paid to the university college in Dundee, but that that was to be withdrawn—not on the ground that Scotland had not an equal claim to a share of the £100,000, but on the ground that the whole £100,000 was required for the university colleges in England. They had equal needs in Scotland, but they got no grant for secondary and intermediate education, which were as dear to the heart of Scotland as to Wales. The only ground for refusing a proportion of the grant to Scotland was that Scotland was supplied under the Acts of 1890 and 1892. But that was not money granted by the House of Commons, but assigned as Scotland's equivalent share of the whiskey duty, and Scotland had chosen to devote part of it to university and secondary education. The Vote only began a few years ago, when it stood at £15,000, but it had risen within less than fifteen years to £100,000, and he thought that Scotland had suffered a wrong in having only a one per cent. share of it. He trusted that the Prime Minister and the Secretary for Scotland would take the subject into consideration and press on the Treasury the claims of Scotland for a proper share of the grant of £100,000.

Mr. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes) said that the hon. Gentleman opposite had stated that the voluntary school at Chippenham had been closed hastily. He happened to be the Vice-chairman of the Education Committee in the county of Wiltshire and had full acquaintance with the facts; and the best answer he could give to the hon. Gentleman's statement was that the school referred to had been condemned by the Board of Education years ago. The school was built in a corner of the churchyard; it was antiquated and insanitary, and really could not be used for the purpose of the education of children in these days. The Education Committee of the County Council met the managers of the non-provided schools in the town and practically asked them to make good, proper accommodation in the voluntary school, but the answer was that they could not afford to do it. The result was that the Education Committee proceeded to provide a properly equipped and sanitary council school. He ventured to say that the criticisms of the hon. Gentleman on the Board of Education in regard to the case would fall very lightly on those most concerned. The decision of the Education Committee had been supported in the town, and it was recognised that their action had been dictated not by sectarian feeling, but by the interests of sanitation and the health of the children.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) said he had listened with astonishment to the defence of the appointment made to the staff of the Board of Education. He was bound to say that, coming to the question with an open mind, he thought the action of the Government amounted to a very serious imputation on the officials of the Board. The right hon. Gentleman had said that it was necessary to have an official who had a special knowledge of Welsh schools. But who was the gentleman who had hitherto had the oversight and management of those schools? Somebody at the Board of Education must have had that knowledge. It seemed to him extraordinary to pass over a gentleman on the staff who had knowledge of Welsh schools, and to appoint a gentleman from the outside who, no matter what his qualifications might be, was known to have opinions which would prevent him from dealing with the question with impartiality. The right hon. Gentleman had said that when he came to the Board of Education he found not a single Welshman on the staff, and that he wanted to remedy that. He had a great respect for Welshmen; but Mr. Davies had apparently been appointed on the sole ground that he came from that country. As he listened to the panegyric of the right hon. Gentleman on Welshmen, an old, familiar rhyme rose to his mind, which, slightly varied, seemed accurately to describe the appointment which the right hon. Gentleman had made—

> "Davies was a Welshman—on which slender grounds,
> Davies came to our House and took twelve hundred pounds."

Those grounds seemed to him to be entirely inadequate. Turning to the financial aspect of the whole Vote, he conceded that the Government were entitled to come down to the House and ask for a Vote on account, to carry them on for a few weeks. But here they were asking for an advance sufficient to carry them on for no less than five months. That was far too long a period to ask the House to provide for in a Vote on Account; and the demand amounted to a serious infraction of the financial control of Parliament.

MR. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince) said he wished to draw attention to the fact that a serious injustice was inflicted on many young people who wished to engage in the educational profession by the theological tests which were imposed on those who desired to enter the training colleges. That could only result in the ultimate lowering of the standard of education.

Resolution agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS [12TH MARCH] REPORT.

"That towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, the sum of £71,715 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

"That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, the sum of £38,114,700, be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

First Resolution read a second time, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Runciman.

Second Resolution to be considered to-morrow.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.) rose to call attention to the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act; and to move, "That, in the opinion of this House, the presence of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act on the Statute Book is a gross violation of the Constitution, without parallel in any other portion of His Majesty's dominions, and that the

Act should be immediately repealed." He said that the Motion was one of very great importance to Ireland. It had been the subject of frequent ballots by all the Nationalist Members, and he brought it forward on behalf of the entire Irish Party, as the whim of the ballot had this time placed it in his unworthy hands, and upon it he now ventured to address the House for the first time, feeling sure that it would extend to him the indulgence usual on such occasions. Ever since the Act of Union, in 1800, their country had lived under coercive laws. The Act to which his Motion referred was passed in the year 1887, and up to that period the number of Coercion Acts equalled the number of years which had elapsed since the destruction of the Irish Parliament. In that year there was rushed through Parliament by the use of the closure and in face of the feeling worked up in this country by the infamous, but then unexposed, *Times* forgeries, a permanent Coercion Act which still remained on the Statute book. By that Act trials for criminal offences were taken away from the protection of juries. In addition, new offences were created. In fact, it was applied almost entirely against political opponents of the ascendency class in Ireland. The tribunal was neither independent nor impartial. It consisted of two hirelings of the Government who, at the whim of a Minister, might be summarily dismissed. It was not the members of the criminal class who were brought before those officials. Without exception they belonged to a political party, and their alleged offences were of a political character. It was the general belief in Ireland that their sentences were prepared by their prosecutors, and the trial was a mere mockery. Hundreds of the most respected and influential men in Ireland had been imprisoned under that Act. Their treatment in prison was barbarous. There was no distinction made between them and common criminals, unless indeed to make their treatment worse than that of those who offended against the ordinary law. He spoke on the subject with feeling and from bitter experience, as he was one of the victims of the Act only five years ago, and he knew that the treatment given was perfectly inhuman. There was no such law in existence in this country. It was contrary to the Constitution of Great Britain. Not even in the Crown Colonies was there anything like it. At present the Act was not in operation, but that was no argument against its repeal. It was in force a short time ago. It could be enforced at any moment at the discretion of the Chief Secretary. By an exercise of the will of one man who might know nothing of the conditions of the country the whole Constitution under which the land was governed might be completely altered. That was not a safe nor a satisfactory state of things. It was a permanent and a standing menace to the liberty of the people. They called on the House to declare that that Act should be repealed and thus to stamp it with a verdict of disapproval. In his own case, although he lived only across the street from the police station, the police allowed him to go at large for some time, and although they could have arrested him at any moment they waited till he was in bed, and then in the dead of night came and took him away from his wife and four children. He was taken by night seven miles and put in a cell, and the Removable did not come to hear his case till three o'clock the following day. All he could say was that if the Chief Secretary had made in Ireland the speech which he heard him make the other night he would have been locked up in a like manner. It was no use to attempt by hirelings of that class to coerce the Irish people, who might be led with a silk rope but could not be driven with a pitchfork. For himself he welcomed the suffering he had undergone, as he would die for his country. He begged to move—

Mr. NOLAN (Louth, S.), in seconding the Motion, said that it was a question of immense importance to the people of Ireland. The Crimes Act placed the liberties, fortunes, and lives of millions of the people at the discretion of an irresponsible Court, or at least a Court which was not responsible to the Irish people themselves. It was also a question of paramount importance to British statesmen, and was one which ought to give His Majesty's Government cause for reflection. It was the object of British statesmen to bring the United States and

Great Britain into closer contact; but only the other day he read that the Irish in America had joined hands with the Germans in order to prevent that aim being carried out and the land of their adoption being mixed up with foreign politics. The feeling of the Irish in the United States had been largely affected by the exceptional treatment which Ireland had received. He knew that the overwhelming majority of Ministerialists were supporters of the National view, and that in speaking to the Opposition on the subject they were talking to deaf ears; but still it was necessary to discuss the subject. He availed himself with pleasure of the present opportunity because of the conditions which had arisen since the general election. In that House there were something like 300 new members who had never had an opportunity of hearing that important question discussed within those walls. Apart from that, there was also the fact that beyond those walls was the vast electorate of Great Britain, who were taking an increasing interest in what took place in Parliament. It was of the highest importance that they should know for themselves the way in which Ireland was treated under English rule. That was no new opinion. It was the opinion held by many distinguished Irishmen in the past, among others by the great Daniel O'Connell, who said that if the English people only knew the way in which Ireland was treated they would rise up in revolt against it; that if Ireland in the past had been treated with exceptional harshness it was not due to the masses of the English people, but rather to their rulers. The first thing he would ask new Members of the House and the English electors outside to do was to recognise the fact that Ireland was almost a crimeless country. They heard of outrages against God and man in almost every country in the world. In Ireland there was an almost entire absence of serious crime. He would venture to say that in many of the great centres of industry in this country English officers of the law were being brutally beaten that night, and that in a day or two hon. Members would read in the newspapers of policemen giving evidence that while they were being severely beaten the crowd stood idly by and allowed the outrage to be perpetrated, and that where men and women had gone up to give evidence against criminals in this country their lives had been made a hell to them by the people of the locality. Irishmen had a right to say that if their country was without crime there was no justification for the Crimes Act's remaining on the Statute-book, and that if there was any justification for its existence there was more necessity for it in England than in Ireland. He knew the arguments which would be adduced in favour of the Act by hon. Members above the Gangway. They would say that while Ireland was crimeless now, on some future occasion the Act might be necessary. He challenged hon. Members to tell the House what conditions would necessitate the Act's being put into operation, and, if hon. Members could not tell them that, he asked them fairly and frankly to say why this Act should not be wiped off the Statute-book. One of the arguments which would be advanced by hon. Members was that a similar Act was passed by a Liberal Government. But many things had happened since then. A reform Act was passed and then came the general election of 1885, after which election English Liberal statesmen who believed in their principles could be blind no longer to the fact that a new state of affairs had arisen. When the general election of 1885 resulted in eighty-five of the 101 popularly elected Members for Ireland being returned to oppose coercion Mr. Gladstone declared that a new state of affairs had arisen; that the justification for coercive measures had passed away, and that Ireland should be governed according to the will of the Irish people. It might be said that Liberal Governments had been in power since then, and yet had not wiped the Act off the Statute-book. But the Liberal Government went one better. During the Parliament of 1892 it passed through the House of Commons in the teeth of great opposition, and in the face of great difficulty, a measure which would have given the Irish people the management of their own affairs. He failed to see how Liberal statesmen could take any other view of the matter than that advanced by Irish Members that night, because, according to all Liberal principles, if people were governed without their consent that government was tyranny, however benevolent it might be. Hon. Members above the gangway would argue that the law did no harm except to law-breakers; that the Irishman who went about his business, and did not meddle with politics or public affairs, was absolutely free; that he need have no fear of being brought before a couple of removable magistrates to be sent to prison to herd with the vilest criminals in the world. Those were the arguments of tyrants all over the world. Representatives of the Russian Government and men who knew Russia made use of the same argument, and said that in despotic Russia a man who minded his own business and did not meddle with affairs of State, was as free as he would be in the City of London. That was not the question. So long as Ireland occupied her present position, so long were Irishmen entitled to equal treatment with Englishmen; an Irishman in Ireland ought to receive the same treatment that he would receive in England or Scotland, or in any of the British Colonies. The Irishman who went to Canada, New Zealand, Australia, or South Africa, or who travelled up and down Great Britain, could, if he was charged with an offence, claim to be and would be treated in exactly the same way as if he had been born in England; but the moment he set foot upon his native soil he lived under exceptional laws. Some Sergeant Sheridan or some Sergeant O'Haloran, or some other base representative of an unjust system, could make a charge against him, all the more readily because he had been away from home, and might be supposed to have come back with the revoluntionary idea of equal justice and equal treatment between man and man, and could have him hauled before a couple of removables, and sent to prison to be treated as a common criminal. Irishmen had a right to resent that kind of treatment, and to demand that a change should be made in the law. As he had said, a new condition of affairs which appealed to English Liberal statesmen arose in the election of 1885. In that new state of affairs, Mr. Gladstone decided upon giving to the Irish people the management of their own affairs. Unfortunately, both for Ireland, and, as he believed, for England as well, Mr. Gladstone failed, owing to the abandonment of their principles by a number of so-called Liberals at the time. The election of 1885 was followed by another in 1886, and at that election a very large majority were against them. Since then the Irish people had maintained an attitude which was the same now as in 1885. In 1887, the Leader of the Opposition came into power, and what did he do? He recognised, as Liberal statesmen had done, that a change had taken place. He saw that it would no longer be possible, in a light-hearted, easy way, to pass a Coercion Bill for Ireland. He had an inspiration. He said, "I will take advantage of my present majority to pass a Coercion Act which shall be perpetual." Up to then the Union was eighty-six years old, and every year that it had lasted there had been coercion in some form or other—the Whiteboy Act, the Arms Act, the Crimes Act, a suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act. The majority of Irish representatives had always been resolutely opposed to the passing of exceptional laws of that kind, and saw that Liberal statesmen and their followers would have to be reckoned with. Irishmen saw that the light was beginning to dawn upon the people of England as a whole. They recognised that a large portion of the English Press was submitting the actual state of things in Ireland to the English people, and that on hundreds of platforms, in districts where, perhaps, an Irishman had never been seen before, Irish Members of Parliament were pleading the cause of their country with effect. The Leader of the Opposition recognised that it was a case with him of now or never placing the Irish people under a perpetual political disabilities Act. A Bill was passed notwithstanding the strongest opposition of the majority of Irish Members, and also of the majority of Members of the Liberal Party. He did not know exactly what was going to be the upshot of the debate that night. They felt that if it rested with the Chief Secretary, or even with his Government, that offensive statute would be wiped out without further delay. But the right hon. Gentleman would do either of two things—he would either call their attention to the fact that though there was a Liberal Government nominally in power it was not really in power, and that it was impotent to carry out its own will or the will of the people—that any measure passed triumphantly by an enormous majority in that House might be bowled over at the other end of the lobby, that it would be a waste of time to try to repeal this offensive Act. Or he might say something that would be received with great satisfaction by Irish Members and by the Irish people—that in the near future His Majesty's Government would introduce a measure of such a scope as would give the Irish people the management of their own affairs and put an end to the old and bad system which was the root of so much evil in Ireland, and which also had inflicted such damage to the reputation of England not only abroad but in many other ways. Some of the most disastrous defeats which England had sustained abroad had been administered by Irish soldiers who had been driven from their country by coercive laws. An English monarch when he suffered a reverse on the Continent, used these memorable words:—"Cursed be the laws which deprive me of such soldiers." It was those coercive laws which drove Irish soldiers abroad—laws which were now still in force in Ireland. He asked the House to recognise the wisdom and the justice of wiping this Act from the Statute-book of England to which it was a disgrace.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, the presence of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act on the Statute-book is a gross violation of the Constitution, without parallel in any other portion of His Majesty's dominions, and that the Act should be immediately repealed."—(*Mr. Hogan.*)

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said it had been pointed out by the mover of the Resolution that new Members of the House could hardly be expected to know much about the provisions of the Act, but neither he nor the seconder had given any very clear indication of what the provisions were or to what class of case they applied. In regard to ordinary crime Ireland no doubt compared most favourably with any other part of the Kingdom. As one who claimed to be as much an Irishman as those who held different political views he was proud of that fact, but at the same time he thought he was right in saying that all Irishmen, whatever might be their political views, ought to see that the best possible efforts were made to get rid of another class of crime, and to free their country from the stigma which attached to it. He had heard it stated that the arguments of the Unionist representatives would be in regard to this Act that no man unless he was a law-breaker would suffer under it. The answer was, that they were all subject to the law, that the law did not coerce those who observed it, but did coerce those who broke it. Law-breakers might say that such a law was tyrannous. But that was all they could say about it; if there were crimes to punish and a law was passed which was adequate and necessary for that purpose, it was idle to speak of it as tyranny. He lived in Ireland, and those who did so only knew of the existence of such an Act of Parliament from speeches of those who held certain political views and who spoke from a certain standpoint, and also from articles which appeared in newspapers which advocated certain political views. Those who were law-abiding did not know that such an Act was in existence. To that part of Ireland which Unionist Members represented the law applied just as to any other part of the country, but it had never become necessary to put it in force. It had never been necessary in his part of Ireland to put this law into force. He said that deliberately. Their idea was that the existence of such a law judging from the past, was necessary. They believed that at present there were matters going on which, even with all the desire of the Chief Secretary to refrain from using it, would probably drive him to use it in the end. The Act could only be brought into operation by the Lord-Lieutenant and the members of the Privy Council. Its operation could be caused to cease if either House of Parliament presented a petition desiring the repeal of the Proclamation. It was an Act of Parliament which the present Prime Minister at one period, speaking on the subject, said he considered it would be a wise thing to have permanent. That was in 1886.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): But this is 1907.

Mr. GORDON said he was well aware of that fact. But if the Act were now applied in England not a single law-abiding citizen would know of its existence. If applied over the whole of the United Kingdom it would injure no one. No injustice would be done. The first section of the Act dealt with the inquiry which might become necessary were crime and outrage prevalent in a particular district, and stated the manner in which it could be brought into force by Proclamation. Under the second part, if a fair and impartial trial could not be obtained the venue might be changed on the application of the Attorney-General, and the party to be tried could apply to be tried in some other place. The Court had power to deal with that and to give witnesses expenses and the costs of counsel instructed. So much about the venue. The case had to be tried by Irishmen in Ireland and in the Irish Courts. The other part of the Act dealt with summary jurisdiction. What was that after all? In Dublin it could be exercised in precisely the way that ordinary summary jurisdiction was exercised. It was under the same Act. In the rest of Ireland when the Act under consideration was put into operation by Proclamation it was to be exercised by two resident magistrates, one of whom must have sufficient legal knowledge to satisfy either the Chief Secretary for Ireland or the Lord Chancellor—he forgot which at the moment. Those resident magistrates were appointed wholly apart from the discharge of these particular duties. They could give no more in the way of punishment than was given by the Justices at the ordinary petty sessions. They were limited to six months imprisonment, which was the ordinary petty sessions jurisdiction. There was the right of appeal to the quarter sessions, where the County Court Judge sat to hear the cases on appeal. What enormous hardship was there in that? Every word of the Act was directed against criminals, and it was only to be put in force when the Lord-Lieutenant and the Privy Council thought it necessary for the prevention, detection or punishment of crime or outrage, and not for anything else. Under those circumstances what reason was there to complain of the Act's being put into force? Hon. Members below the gangway might laugh, but he would like to hear an answer to that argument. A mere sentimental answer would not do. He did not think that even Nationalist Members would disagree with him when he said that they wanted to have outrage and crime stamped out in Ireland. As for the other parts of the Act, they were merely machinery. He had told the House what were the substantial parts of the Act. In the North of Ireland they did not regard it as a menace to their liberties at all. Even when administered by a Chief Secretary opposed to them in politics they were perfectly satisfied that it would not injure any law-abiding citizens. They had in the North of Ireland their Irish sentiments just as much as the people of the south and west, and yet they did not ask that the Act should be taken off the Statute-book. They wished it to remain, because cases had arisen in which it had been useful and necessary; the predecessors in office of the present Government knew the necessity of it, and they never attempted to repeal it. What was there at the present time to render the repeal of the Act necessary? It was passed to meet a special class of crime, which was a danger to the credit of the country. That class of crime had now diminished, but could anyone say that intimidation, boycotting, or the writing of threatening letters had disappeared? On the 21st of last month the Chief Secretary in replying to a question about boycotting in Ireland said that there were ten serious cases of boycotting in Ireland and thirty-eight minor cases. [Nationalist cries of "Oh, oh!"] What did that mean? It meant that a man living within the law, who had not broken the law of Ireland or England, was to be placed in such a position that his neighbour dare not sell him a loaf of bread or a suit of clothes, or shoe his horses, and that men dare not work on his farm, although his crops were rotting away. That was what boycotting meant. Some people thought that boycotting meant that if persons were dissatisfied with one another they could say, "I will not deal with you, but with somebody else." That was not boycotting. What had the right hon. Gentleman said earlier in the day in reply to a Question about the Bradys, who had been deprived of the food which was being carried for them some twenty or thirty miles? They could not get lodgings inthe assize town except at the police barracks.

THE SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): Did the Crimes Act stop boycotting?

MR. GORDON said it did to a very large extent. Without it the state of things would have been much worse. He wanted to point out that they could not expect the case would be fairly tried in the venue in which the people actually lived, where the crime had been committed, where the people were not allowed lodging except in the police barracks, and where they could not get food except it was sent to them from the court house. Did they as Englishman expect that the jury in such a place was going to deal with the case fairly and impartially? Ought not such crimes to be stopped? Did they not think that if a fair trial could not be had in one part the case should be transferred to another where a fair trial could be had and where justice could be administered? That was a state of affairs which the Chief Secretary had had to admit that day in the House. The right hon. Gentleman had had to admit that in another case where seven people were fired at and one individual was seriously injured, no person had been brought to justice. He had had to admit on various occasions what was the state of crime and outrage in Ireland. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman if he thought boycotting a trifle.

MR. BIRRELL: No, I have never said anything of the kind.

MR. GORDON said he did not want to go beyond fair argument. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to consider the question from the point of view of one boycotted man, even if there were only one. The Judge at the last Leitrim Assizes said that any increase in crime was due to that odious form of crime carried on by intimidating and threatening letters. An isolated man living in a hostile neighbourhood received a threatening letter with the emblems of death upon it. It was no wonder that the Judge described that as an odious crime. [AN HON. MEMBER: Who was the Judge?] He declined to be cross-examined. The Judge stated that the county inspector had informed him that a certain district in the county was in a very lawless condition; that three families representing twelve people were wholly boycotted and under police protection; that other three families received partial police protection; and that one family existed in such a state of continual danger that three policemen were quartered in the house. [NATIONALIST laughter.] Hon. Members might laugh at that, but it was a serious thing for those concerned. The Chief Secretary, even with his short acquaintance with Ireland, must know that in the West there were districts where everyone had to be a member of the United Irish League or it was the worse for him. Meetings were held, cases were brought forward, their pros and cons discussed, and resolutions arrived at, and the reports of those proceedings appeared in the newspapers just as much as if they were the reports of proceedings in an ordinary Court of Justice. The views of that organisation were not merely expressed at the meetings in reference to individuals, but published in the newspapers, and did anybody dare to tell the House that the jurors drawn from that class who had shown what their views were in reference to these very crimes would act fairly and impartially? The Crimes Act enabled places to be selected where cases could be tried. The Attorney-General knew there were places away from the disturbed districts where a fair trial might be obtained. The learned Judge to whom he had referred justified his statement by quoting what his predecessor at the last Connaught Winter Assize said—

> "Everyone knows that when the chain of terrorism is complete no witness will give evidence and no jury will convict."

There was the case of a horse dealer in Monaghan who took the grazing of a farm from which some previous tenant had been evicted. That poor man's whole property was destroyed; his fences and outhouses were pulled down and fourteen horses and six cows burnt. When the case came before the county court compensation to the extent of £1,150 was awarded, but he did not know whether that fully compensated the man. A case recently came before Judge Adams in Limerick County Court, in which the occupier of a grazing farm who had annoyed some people claimed compensation for the malicious burning of two ricks of hay. Judge Adams said—

> "This was a most disgraceful business. The farmers of Ireland had received from the legislature most important benefits, and if anyone was to tell them thirty years ago that such benefits would come he would be put down as a madman. They must now, farmers and labourers, and all other subjects of the King in this country, remember that grievances having been removed law and order must prevail, and he could see no reason whatever, even according to the popular code, for the persecution to which this humble man was subjected. A piece of land formerly held by a tenant of the Count de Salis had become vacant, and the farmers were looking for portions of it to round their own takes—a very innocent and proper proceeding, but this did not suit the tribunal that sat in the neighbouring public-houses, and accordingly this man's life was made a burthen of. He was abused on the road, and his sisters had to be guarded by a force of the Royal Irish Constabulary coming to and from their work of milking cows. It was a very bad case of popular hostility. No doubt can be entertained that the fire was malicious, because, although it occurred at eight o'clock at night and the police barrack but two miles off, no intimation was conveyed to the Constabulary, who did not discover the occurrence until the morning after. He awarded £60 compensation.

Those were things which could not be gainsaid, and there were many similar cases as was known to everyone in Ireland who did not keep his head quite covered up. A receiver the other day brought before a Judge the case of a man named Burns who had taken a piece of land for grazing. Here was the letter which was written to him—

> "To Mr. H. Burns.—The caste to which you belong has too long stood between the people and their inheritance. We are determined that no such barriers shall intervene between the people and what is rightly theirs; so, in justice to you as well as to ourselves, we hereby give you notice that you shall not be permitted to occupy your farm of Addergoole one moment beyond 1st April, 1907. Rest assured that if you refuse to comply with this mandate of the people of Mullagh we will ourselves carry it into execution in broad daylight, and in the most public manner."

Of course they would do nothing of the kind; but under the present *régime* no attempt was made to have the public law enforced in that locality.

> "The time has passed when your prayers for mercy would have been listened to. Justice, not mercy, is all that we shall give you, or receive."

That letter was signed by eighteen people and was written in reference to a case pending in the High Court of Justice.

MR. BIRRELL: Were they real signatures, or were they all in the same handwriting?

MR. GORDON said he did not know; but the Judge said that if it could be proved that they were genuine signatures he would take measures to deal with them. He only knew that the matter came before the Court and no suggestion was made that they were not real signatures. That was only a part of the chain of terrorism that was exercised. The people who could prove these signatures would not come forward and the jury would not convict. But the terror of the man who received that letter was just the same. What steps had the Attorney-General for Ireland taken in the matter?

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange) said the letter had not yet come before him; it was before Mr. Justice Ross. If it did come before him he would deal with it.

MR. GORDON said that if such a matter, which was before the Court three weeks ago, and was a crime dealing with property under the control of the Court, although publicly brought forward by the police who were the executive officers, was not reported to the Attorney-General or to the Chief Secretary, the fact was significant. If the officials and the police thought it was no use, or that it would not be thought a good thing to report it to the proper authorities, it would add to the present state of disturbance in the West of Ireland. If the Chief Secretary allowed matters to go on as they were going, he would be driven to put the Coercion Act in force; and he would bitterly regret that he had acceded to this Motion.

*MR. CHERRY said that before he dealt with the Resolution moved by the hon. Member for Tipperary, North, he wished to congratulate him on his able and eloquent speech. He was sure that the House would always hear the hon. Member in future with pleasure. The hon. and learned Member who had just sat down seemed to be enamoured of the Coercion Act. If it was such an excellent provision, why did it not apply in England or Scotland?

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said that one important provision, viz., that of change of venue, did apply to Scotland.

*MR. CHERRY said he was speaking of the Crimes Act generally, of which that was only one small provision. But even the change of venue under the Crimes Act was a most one-sided measure. The Attorney-General for Ireland was entitled to walk into Court and name the venue, and the Court was compelled to change it at his direction. Another provision of the Crimes Act gave power to the Lord-Lieutenant to declare a certain association dangerous, and the proclamation to that effect made it a criminal offence to summon or attend a meeting of such association. That provision was put so frequently in force that under it twenty-three of the Irish Members of the House had been sent to gaol with hard labour by two stipendiary magistrates. Would the English people stand any such law as that? He would like to see a Home Secretary getting a Proclamation issued declaring that a particular trade union, say, in Birmingham, was dangerous, and sending down two magistrates from London to try the members and sentence them to six months imprisonment with hard labour. Another section of the Crimes Act provided that where a crime was committed a secret inquiry might be held and witnesses be compelled to appear before it for examination without the presence of Judge, jury, or counsel. Would the English people tolerate that? Would they stand a special Court constituted for the trial of offences of a political nature, and consisting of two magistrates nominated by Government, who were the prosecutors in the case? His hon. and learned friend had made a most serious charge against the Irish police when he said that they neglected to report breaches of the law.

MR. GORDON: What I said was that if the police did not report that particular case it was a strange commentary on the way such reports were made.

*MR. CHERRY said that during the year he and his hon. and learned friend the Solicitor-General had been in office the police had reported to them even the most trivial violations of the law in all parts of Ireland, and in no single instance in which a crime had been committed had they declined to direct a prosecution. On becoming Law Officers of the Crown the first duty he and his colleague had to discharge was to determine on behalf of the Government whether or not they should make use of the provisions of the Crimes Act. A more responsible duty it would be difficult to conceive. They were responsible for the preservation of law and order in the country. They knew that some hot-headed spirits conceived that, as there was a change of Government, they could do what they liked. They fully appreciated the risk, but after the most careful consideration they came unhesitatingly to the conclusion that it was better and safer to adhere to the ordinary law, fairly administered as between man and man, than to resort to the provisions of an Act which they believed to be unfair and unjust. The aim of every Government in Ireland ought to be to convince the masses of the people that the law was their friend and not their enemy, and he had no hesitation in saying that so long as the Crimes Act was made use of in prosecutions for crimes of any kind in Ireland, it would be impossible to get the majority of the people of Ireland to believe that the law was fairly administered. Soon after they came into office all the Proclamations under the Crimes Act were withdrawn and that Act was not now in force in any part of Ireland. They did something more than that; they resolved that as far as they could they would put an end to any unfairness in empanelling juries, and for that purpose they summoned the Crown solicitors of greatest experience to a conference, discussed the possibility of allowing jurors to be challenged equally on the part of the Crown and on the part of the prisoner, and arranged that as far as possible that should be done. They believed that if they showed the juries throughout the country that they were to be trusted, and that they were really made responsible to preserve law and order, they would respond to that appeal and do their duty. They believed that the reason for miscarriages of justice was that the jurors in the box felt they were not trusted. They would be told, of course, that that was a most dangerous experiment. For the purpose of seeing how it would work, he sent out before the March Assizes of last year a circular to all the Crown solicitors, asking for a return of the number of persons they felt it their duty, acting under the rules in force (which if observed were excellent), to set aside, the number of jurors challenged by the prisoners, the nature of the charge and the result of the trial. The Crown solicitors acted on the instructions given them, and they found that throughout Ireland the number of jurors challenged by the prisoners exceeded the number ordered to stand aside by the Crown, and there was not a complaint in all Ireland from north to south to his knowledge of the verdicts returned.

Mr. MOORE : You cannot say that this year.

*Mr. CHERRY said if the hon. Member would allow him to proceed he would deal with this year. At the March Assizes last year he endeavoured to put the ordinary law in motion fairly with most excellent results. The same thing happened at the July Assizes. The results at the winter Assizes were still more remarkable. The most important was that for the Province of Munster. There they had not only the ordinary crime but two agrarian offences of a political character, one being of a most serious nature. The Judge, Mr. Justice Wright, who was not to be suspected of any undue partiality for jurors, prisoners, or the Liberal Party, at the conclusion of the Assizes in Limerick, stated that there was not a single verdict they had brought in with which he disagreed. And in both the political cases mentioned, one a very serious charge of attempt to murder, the juries convicted and the prisoners were sentenced. Not only did the Judge approve of the verdicts, but what was more remarkable in Ireland, the leading Nationalist paper of the South of Ireland published a strong leading article approving of the whole of the verdicts. He thought that a great triumph for the cause of law and order, for it was his object to make the masses of the people feel by fair and just administration that the law was their friend and not their enemy. It was his firm belief and that of his colleagues, that by pursuing that course they would really put an end to intimidation and boycotting far more effectually than by putting into force any provision of the Crimes Act. They remembered the time, ten or fifteen years ago, when those provisions were in force in different parts of the country, when the gaols were filled with Members of Parliament, and yet boycotting and intimidation was far more rife than at present. It might possibly be said that in having resort to the ordinary law they had allowed crime to go unpunished. That was the general statement, and it was contended by the leading Unionist newspapers that Ireland was in a terrible state, and that crime was increasing day by day. Yet in 1905, under the late Government the number of agrarian crimes reported by the constabulary was 278, and the total in 1906 was 234, which was a distinct improvement. To take the details: offences against the person were sixteen in 1905 and seven in 1906; offences against property were sixty-four in 1905 and seventy-one in 1906, a slight increase; offences against public peace were 193 in 1905 and 156 last year. Other offences were five in 1905 and none in 1906. Those figures showed that resort to the ordinary law had not increased crime, but had diminished it, and he believed a continuation of that policy would put an end to agrarian crime altogether. He did not think Members were aware of the enormous decrease in agrarian offences in Ireland during the last twenty years. In 1886 there were 1,056 agrarian offences reported. In 1896 they had fallen to 257. In 1905 they were 278 and last year 234. Judges in Ireland had a great fancy for the returns of constabulary inspectors, and they had been quoted in the debate. He thought, however, they should be looked at as a whole, and not those picked out which favoured a particular conclusion, and the others ignored. He had a summary of the reports of all the county inspectors in Ireland for 1906. There were only thirty-two counties in Ireland, but the reports numbered thirty-six, the cities and the ridings of counties making up that total. Of those thirty-six districts all but one were reported to be in a peaceful and satisfactory condition, and it was important to note that the exception was the East Riding of Galway where the Clanricarde property was situated. It was fair to mention that certain districts were reported as being disturbed, but even in those cases in almost every instance the police were able to notify improvement in the last twelve months. In no case had they reported any increase of lawlessness. He would refer to three or four of the counties which were not entirely satisfactory. In regard to Leitrim the report was that the country was in a satisfactory state except in certain sub-districts, that there were disputes on certain estates, but that towards the close of the year there were some signs of improvement. The men who attacked Brady had been prosecuted, but as the matter was *sub judice* he did not think it right to refer further to the matter. The prosecution had been instituted by the present law officers. There had been two abortive trials, but the case would be tried again at the next assizes, and he hoped sincerely the jury would come to a conclusion one way or the other. But even if they did not that would not alter his opinion one jot. He believed that it was far better that one or two guilty individuals should be acquitted than that the whole fountain of justice should be polluted. They heard a great deal about what a terrible thing boycotting and intimidation were. Of course it was an evil. But it was not a thing of to-day or yesterday. It had been going on in spite of the Crimes Act, and as far as he could see, that Act had done absolutely nothing to stop it. He again turned to the reports of the county inspectors. Thirty-six counties, districts, and cities were reported upon in December last. In twenty-three of them the report was that there was no boycotting or intimidation whatsoever. In thirteen, some boycotting prevailed, but most of the cases were of a trifling character. Cavan was mentioned. "County peaceful," was the report. No intimidation, two cases of minor boycotting. Clare was said to be a terrible county. [MR. W. REDMOND: No, no!] The inspector's report on Clare was that the county was in a peaceful state, save in two sub-districts. No boycotting, two cases of intimidation. The county of Cork had been referred to. Two cases of partial boycotting and four cases of intimidation was the report for the whole county of Cork. In Fermanagh there had been one case of partial boycotting and one case of complete boycotting. Then there was Galway and the East Riding. It was reported that there was no improvement in the condition of the Riding, which continued in a lawless and unsettled state, except in certain districts. Eight persons were under constant protection. The United Irish League was still a paramount power in the Riding. There were several cases of partial boycotting. Intimidation was very prevalent. That was the only report whch he could really say was unsatisfactory; on the whole he thought the position was very satisfactory. He sincerely believed that if they adhered to the course which they had taken, they would next year have Ireland in an even more peaceful condition than last year, but if they adopted the course which hon. Gentlemen opposite suggested, they would have a state of lawlessness, intimidation, and violence prevailing from north to south of the country.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said the first thing of which he had to complain in the speech of the right hon. and learned Gentleman was that he had made voluminous references to the reports on agrarian crime in Ireland, and yet when hon. Members sitting on the Unionist Benches last session were constantly asking for the production of those Returns they were refused.

Mr. CHERRY: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon, they were published in the Criminal Statistics of last year.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG said he could only say that when the Returns were asked for they were refused, as the right hon. Gentleman said he did not think any useful purpose could be served by any further publication. The right hon. and learned Gentleman relied for the success of his new experiment mainly on two cases in county Cork. They were really county Cork cases, but owing to the Winter Assizes the venue was changed. But that change of venue formed a considerable part of the Act the House was now asked to repeal. He asked the House to say whether the results were to be considered satisfactory. He thought he could convict the right hon. and learned Gentleman out of his own mouth. The Attorney-General had shown that many districts of Ireland were in a very unsettled state, and yet the question before the House was whether the Crimes Act should be repealed. He respectfully asked the House to pause before they said that it should be. As had already been stated, the Act was at present harmless, and there was not a person in Ireland who was affected by its remaining on the Statute-book. The Act in one part dealt with dangerous associations. That was the point to which the right hon. and learned Gentleman said he personally objected to more than to any other. He would tell the House what class of associations came under the purview of the Act as dangerous associations. If an association was found by the Lord-Lieutenant to be formed for the commission of crime, or to encourage or aid persons to commit crime or to promote or incite to acts of violence or intimidation or to interfere with law and order, such associations should be proclaimed. The Attorney-General would have the House believe that the country was in a peaceful state, but he could refute that allegation. He would begin by quoting some words of the hon. Member for East Clare. Speaking on February 4th of this year, in his own county, the hon. Member said that unfortunately there had been lately in certain parts of Ireland a mysterious outbreak of crime. Men had been fired at and large quantities of hay had been destroyed.

Mr. W. REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he wished to explain what the hon. Member had read. When he made that speech the whole district of Clare was in such a peaceful condition that when two or three outrages did take place they caused universal regret and surprise, and it was with reference to those two or three cases he made the speech referred to. When a short time previously some very bad outrages occurred it was proved that they were committed by policemen who were allowed to leave and go to America.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG said he was not sure that the House would be very much edified by the hon. Member's explanation. Still he laid great stress on what the hon. Member said in that speech. He had before now observed that hon. Members said one thing in Ireland and another thing in that House.

Mr. W. REDMOND: I repudiate that.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is in possession.

Mr. W. REDMOND: May I as a point of order——

*Mr. SPEAKER: I will call on the hon. Member next.

Mr. W. REDMOND: I do not wish to speak. It is a matter of order.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to intervene. If he wishes to make a personal explanation he can do so at the conclusion of the speech of the hon. Member.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG said the hon. Member had just given a somewhat long explanation of the remarkable speech to which he had referred, and said that his own county of Clare was in a very law-abiding condition; but the hon. Gentleman must have forgotten the Answer given by the Chief Secretary to a Question on that day, that there had been reported cases of the use of firearms for the purpose of outrage in the county of Clare since January last. Although the number was not certainly stated, there had been four more or less serious cases. A shot was fired outside a man's house for the purpose of intimidating him; in the second case two men working together were fired at by one man and were injured; and another man was fired at and injured. That was a strange commentary on the action of the House last year in refusing to allow the Peace Preservation Act to remain on the Statute Book. The question was whether the state of crime in the country, the number of arrests, and the number of acquittals which were against the weight of the evidence, justified the House in repealing the Act at the present time. In his opinion they emphatically did not. He would have referred, if the matter had not been dealt with by his hon. friend the Member for South Derry, to the charges of the Judges at three assizes recently held in Ireland. The other day the hon. Member for East Mayo, in reference to the charge of one of the Judges to the Grand Jury delivered in the ordinary course, asked whether it was the custom for Judges in England to make political speeches from the Bench. He was very much surprised that the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had not the courage, he would almost say the common decency, ["Oh!"] yes, to stand up in his place, and defend one of His Majesty's Judges in Ireland, as any English Minister, he guaranteed, would have defended one of His Majesty's Judges in England. Whatever his idea of the Member for Mayo's remark might be, it was almost an unheard of thing that His Majesty's Minister should allow that accusation to go uncontradicted. He proposed to read to the House a list of malicious injury cases which had taken place within the last two or three months, which in his opinion formed as good an index to the condition of the country as anything could be. It had been said from time to time that the absence of charges of intimidation was the best index. To a certain extent that was true, but in many places the absence of intimidation and outrage was due to the fact that the people were so much under the heel of the United Irish League that they dare not do anything. With one or two exceptions such was the state of things that the people of Galway, Leitrim, Roscommon, and other counties in Ireland, were absolutely under the heel of the United Irish League and therefore the League did not think it necessary to employ outrage and intimidation to get the people to do what they wished. The people were in such fear, and owing to the deliberate refusal of protection from the Government, they dare not resist, and consequently the Returns showed in some cases a decrease in the amount of crime. Most of the cases of malicious injury were of a bad class, namely, that of burning hay and straw. On 4th January, 1907, for the burning of a stack of hay, £12 damages were allowed. Another case occurred at the Roscommon Quarter Sessions, where £51 15s. was allowed as damages for the malicious burning of 28 tons of hay. At the Dungannon Quarter Sessions, £65 damages were allowed on 24th October last for the malicious burning of a barn and dairy. The hon. Member was proceeding to give details of other cases of malicious injury, when

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL rose and asked the hon. Member for his authority. The hon. Member was making a serious statement, but he was not stating his authority.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I have never known it done before.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said in that case the hon. Member will hear something new that night. He could give the hon. Member the authority for the cases, but it was a long list, and time was short. There was enough to show that the state of the country was not satisfactory, and did not correspond with the rosy statement that had been made by the Attorney-General. He would like to read an extract which was typical of what went on in places like County Wexford. At a national demonstration called by the executive of the

South Wexford branch of the United Irish League, at which addresses were delivered by two Members of Parliament, Mr. Dennis Johnston said—

> The way to settle the evicted tenants' question was, to put it in plain language, to boycott the grabbers. I do not know," he continued, "whether our rev. chairman agrees with this line of action, but it is the line of action that has been adopted with marked advantage in every other district throughout the country and, therefore, what has been found useful in other districts must be found useful in the county of Wexford. If you want to get rid of the planters who are in occupation of evicted farms, you will have to adopt stringent measures——"
>
> "Mr. Edward Neville: 'I'd hang them! By God I would. I'd be the hangman to-morrow.'"

He need not read the remainder of Mr. Johnston's remarks, but he would read the concluding remarks of the rev. chairman—

> "The rev. chairman in declaring the resolution carried, said they all knew as Catholics that boycotting was condemned by the head of their Church, and therefore, he could not be a party to advising anybody to boycott another, but this he would tell them to do, they could watch these parties and see what they did. These parties never dealt with them, never went into their shops, or dealt with them in any way, and they could follow the example thus given to them."

That was sailing very close to the wind. The question simply resolved itself into this. When the Act was originally passed in 1887 by hon. Members opposite, or their predecessors, they believed that the state of things in Ireland was such that an exceptional mode of dealing with it was absolutely necessary. The Act was not doing the smallest harm at the present moment to anybody. The people in the north of Ireland lived under it without feeling it in any shape or form, and the same remark was true in regard to most of the people in the south. It was always possible—he hoped it was not going to happen—that a recurrence of the state of affairs which existed some years ago might take place. But even if that was not the case, he contended that he and his friends had shown that the state of Ireland at the present time was not such that they could safely throw away a method of dealing with an abnormal state of lawlessness in the country. It was very easy to repeal the Act, but it would be a very different matter to re-enact it if the circumstances were such as to require that to be done. In his opinion the country unfortunately was not ripe for the repeal of the measure, and he hoped that hon. Members, whose predecessors passed it many years ago, would not now consider that the time had come for its removal from the Statute-book.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he wanted to take the opportunity of making a personal explanation in reference to the statement of the hon. Member for South Antrim. The hon. Member had read out a number of fragmentary quotations, but anybody who would compare them with the official statements of the Attorney-General would agree that the speech of the hon. Gentleman hardly needed an answer. The hon. Member had said that he was in the habit of saying one thing in the House and another thing outside. He begged in the clearest and most explicit manner to repudiate that assertion. There was no foundation whatever for it. He had been in the House many years longer than the hon. Gentleman, and he did not believe there was a Member on either side who would believe he was capable for any reason whatever of making statements in Ireland or elsewhere, that he was either afraid or ashamed to make in his place in the House. He repudiated the statement as one of the most cowardly description.

Mr. BIRRELL: I cannot but feel genuine sorrow for the hon. Gentlemen who come from Ulster for the course they have felt obliged to take in this debate. They are Irishmen. They love their country. Anything that injures it injures them, and anything that benefits it includes them in that benefit. And yet they have felt it necessary, despite the reports which we receive from the police, who subject the whole of Ireland to a miscroscopic examination to which certainly no other part of the United Kingdom is subjected, and who tell us of the improvement which they note year after year in the various counties of Ireland, and despite the fact that the Attorney-General, who is, in a great way, responsible for the administration of the law in Ireland, has been able in his most remarkable, clear, and convincing speech to put before the House and the country a state of facts which I should have thought would have caused hon. Gentlemen opposite to rejoice—notwithstanding all this they have felt it their duty to maintain that Ireland is still not only disfigured with crime, but that that crime is increasing in such a manner as to render it absolutely necessary, if law and order is to be secured and maintained, that this Criminal Law Procedure (Ireland) Act, of 1887, should remain part of the Statute law of the land. I think that was a melancholy obligation imposed upon them. I am sure I condole with them that they should find it necessary, almost alone, to bring accusations of that sort against a country the evidence of whose improvement has been so clearly and so well established by the reports of the police and by the speech of the Attorney-General. There can be no sort of difference of opinion as to the course to be pursued by His Majesty's Ministers with regard to the Motion. We have no doubt or hesitation as to what we ought to do. I do not believe there is a single individual member of the Administration, and there can be but few of the Party who support that Administration who are not already fully pledged, both by their voices and on several occasions by their votes, to avail themselves of every reasonable opportunity that is afforded them of removing this Criminal Law Procedure (Ireland) Act, which is really a code of tyrannical laws, from the Statute-book. We have had some ingenious defences of the Act. We have been told that no innocent man need mind it. But all arguments of that kind proceed on the assumption that anybody who is accused under that Act is guilty. That is a queer notion of the criminal law. Why it has taken centuries to evolve protection for men who are accused of crime in order that they should not bear the penalty of it until they had received justice at the hands of their fellow-countrymen and been tried by experienced and competent Judges! If you are to say that no man need worry about the criminal law unless he is disposed to be a criminal himself we might try a man for murder without a jury because, if he is a quiet, reasonable individual, he never is likely to be accused of crime. That, at all events, is not the view which His Majesty's Ministers take. Ever since the present Administration came in it has relied upon the ordinary law, and with most satisfactory results. Serious boycotting is, I quite agree, a most cruel and oppressive thing, but what we differ from hon. Gentlemen opposite in is that they believe that you will find in the Criminal Law and Procedure Act, 1887, the means of putting boycotting down in Ireland. We believe honestly that we have discovered a better way, and we are at all events justified by the experience of time in believing that our best chance of making Ireland as free from this kind of offence as happily it is from what is called ordinary crime is to endeavour to make the people of Ireland have confidence in the law and not regard it as something manufactured by their enemies. That, at all events, is the desire we have, and I say without hesitation that His Majesty's Ministers support this Motion. It is only in accordance with our pledges. Happily we have not merely pledges made when we were in opposition to support our position, but we have the experience behind us since we came into office of the righteous administration of the law, which has been attended with the most satisfactory results. With reference to the time when we should give effect to that Resolution, that is very much a matter for ourselves and for Gentlemen from Ireland. We have this session made many promises. We propose after Easter to introduce a measure which is intended to associate the people of Ireland more closely with the administration of the law, and we hope that we shall thereby remove from the administration of the law that black and ugly cloud of suspicion that now hangs over almost everything that an Irish administration does. I hope also to be able to introduce a measure which will effect the restoration of the evicted tenants. We also indicated in the King's Speech that we intend to introduce a measure for the higher education of the people of Ireland. These will necessarily occupy a great deal of time, and I do not think it would be wise for the Irish people at this time to enter into the conflict with another Chamber which would possibly arise in attempting to repeal this Statute. But let it be understood that to-night, at all events, we shall express our fixed determination so to do when the earliest opportunity affords itself, and it is only because I believe that we can devote the time of this session to better and more effective purposes that we adopt this attitude. As long as the present Administration remains in power this Act is, to all intents and purposes, dead and buried, and so far as this Resolution is concerned, His Majesty's Ministers not only offer it no opposition, but certainly wish it well and give it their support.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): It was quite unnecessary for the Chief Secretary to drag in a reference to another place, for the programme of Irish legislation which the right hon. Gentleman has disclosed is likely to occupy a longer period of Parliamentary time than the Government will be able to give to Irish business this session. We, on this side of the House, were not surprised at the declaration which the Chief Secretary has made. It accords with the view of Ministers when they sat on the Opposition benches and voted in favour of the repeal of this Act. Therefore their action is consistent. None the less, it is profoundly to be regretted. It is remarkable that the Attorney-General for Ireland adopted the line taken by the Chief Secretary and has told us that as Attorney-General he could not be trusted fairly to administer an Act of Parliament. I am reluctant to follow the Attorney-General for Ireland on a point of law, but I am informed that on two points in reference to criminal law procedure the Attorney-General for Ireland is quite wrong. He said it was an unfair Act because it gave the Crown or the Attorney-General, when an order for change of venue was made, the right to select the place of trial. That is inaccurate.

MR. CHERRY: What I explained was that I thought it an unfair thing in the administration of the law for the Crown or the Attorney-General to have the absolute right of change of venue. The law ought to be equal, and the same privilege given to the prisoner as to the Crown.

MR. WALTER LONG: I will not argue the point. My right hon. and learned friend near me, who is as good an authority on law as the learned Attorney-General, holds that the prisoner has power to apply to vary or alter the order, and such an applicant is covered in regard to his costs. It is obvious that, if the opinion of my right hon. and learned friend is accurate, the Attorney-General's declaration is inaccurate. Then the Attorney-General said the Act ought to apply to the country at large, and added, "Fancy applying it to all the trade unions!" But he forgot that there was a section which expressly provided that it should not apply to trade unions. But it is with the latter part of the right hon. and learned Gentleman's speech that we feel the greatest dissatisfaction. My hon. and learned friend the Member for South Derry has gone carefully and exhaustively into the evidence afforded by the charges of certain Judges, including the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and he has referred specifically to cases which showed the kind of boycotting which is in existence in Ireland. The Attorney-General passed over all those references, and dealt with them by producing evidence of a different kind. We ought to have had from the Irish Government some more complete answer to these charges than eloquent declarations by the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General that they are as much opposed to boycotting as we on this side. The Attorney-General has assured us that we do not differ in aims, only in methods. The Chief Secretary unfairly, unjustly, and unnecessarily attacked my hon. friends behind me for the part they have taken in the debate. The right hon. Gentleman said it is regrettable that they should have made the case they have made. Why? Are their statements incorrect? Can they be disproved? If so, I will admit that the censure is justified; but, if not, my hon. friends have done no more than their duty, not only to their constituents, but to thousands of men and women in Ireland who take a very different view of the extent to which boycotting prevails, and regard it as not only cruel and tyrannical, but as something which the Government can if they choose lessen, if not get rid of. The Attorney-General has told us that when he took office he made up his mind to depart from the practice he found in existence and to conduct what he himself described as an experiment; but when the right hon. and learned Gentleman claimed that it has already proved to be a success, he did not think it necessary to deal with the remarkable charges of the Judges, or with the specific cases which have been quoted. Of these cases the Government must have cognisance, and they cannot be disposed of by the sentimental declarations of a disapproval of boycotting. The matter has been dismissed to-night in a few sentences. The House has been told that boycotting throughout Ireland is diminishing. The Opposition has never said it existed over the whole of Ireland. Their case is that in parts of Ireland boycotting is deplorably rife, and that the Government ought not to deprive themselves of any powers by which it may be got rid of. The Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General are too sanguine as to the results of their policy. The Opposition take no delight in narrating these cases of intimidation and boycotting; they have no wish to make Party capital or to blacken the character of Irishmen. We have simply acted in the discharge of a duty to our constituents. We have spoken in the name of a number of people who are suffering bitterly, and who feel that the Government does not at present appreciate the gravity of their case, and who have charged hon. Members to see that before any rash or ill-judged action is arrived at a statement of their case shall be put before the House and the country.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 252; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 43.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Benn, W.(T'w'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J.H.(Essex, R'mf'd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J.(S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St. Pancras, N.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset, N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Jackson, R. S
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich,
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald

M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Waterlow, D. S.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Capt. Donelan.

NOES

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Moore, William
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

HARBOUR, ETC., BILLS (HULL AND BARNSLEY RAILWAY BILL).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th March; *Mr. Lloyd-George*], to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 78.]

Adjourned at eleven minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 14*th March*, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with: Burnley Corporation, Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Boston Spa Gas Bill, and the South Eastern, and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill, ought to be dispensed with.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by the Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers) Bill, ought to be dispensed with, subject to Clause 18 being modified, so as to apply only to the intended railways and to those companies concerned whose shareholders approve thereof, and to Clause 20 being struck out.

And that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill ought to be dispensed with, subject to the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 9A, being struck out of the Bill.

Read and agreed to.

Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

West Riding Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Barnsley, Wombwell, and Wath Tramways Bill [H.L.] Burnley Corporation Bill, Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill. Examiners' Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Wednesday next.

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.] Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn: read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 25th and 28th of February last discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next.

Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 25th and 28th of February last discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next.

BAINES' NAME BILL [H.L.].

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES (The Earl of Onslow): My Lords, with the permission of your Lordships, I should like to say a word with reference to a Bill which is not before the House to-night, but which was before us last night, and upon which a question was put to me by my noble and learned friend Lord Ashbourne—I refer to Baines' Name Bill. As I had received no notice of the intention of the noble and learned Lord to call attention to it, I was not in a position at the moment to explain exactly what the Bill was. The Bill is a peculiar one. It is not, as the noble and learned Lord seemed to infer, a Bill to change a man's surname—that undoubtedly could be done without an Act of Parliament—but it is a Bill to change a Christian name. It so happened that the testator in this case

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

left the property to this man on condition that he took certain names to the exclusion of all others—that is to say, to inherit the property he was obliged to drop his Christian names. As the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack observed, if by Act of Parliament you take property away from A and give it to B, you obviously do something which the general law of the land did not intend. But in this case, although there were remainders over from the first legatee the same condition was imposed, and therefore everyone would have had either to relinquish the property or ask Parliament to pass a Bill. I must say that this seems to me an unreasonable clause for a man to put into his will. At the same time I do not think there was any way of settling the matter except by asking Parliament to sanction a Bill, and it was for that reason that this Bill was introduced.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ARMY RESERVE).

Statement showing: Actuarial calculation of the normal strength of the 1st Class Army Reserve; and

Explanation of the difference between the actual strength on the 1st October, 1899, and the normal.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854–1894.

Eighteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission; with Appendix.

TEACHERS' PENSION FUND (IRELAND).

Reports on the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Fund (Ireland) on 31st December, 1905.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland, for the year 1906.

MISCELLANEOUS, No. 1. (1907).

Translation of the alien law of the Republic of Honduras, 8th February, 1906.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie upon the Table.

The Earl of Onslow.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).

Order made by the council of the county of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the urban districts of Royton, Failsworth, Crompton, Lees, Littleborough, and Milnrow. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

COMPANIES BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, the Bill to which I have the honour to call your Lordships' attention to-day is based on the Report of the Departmental Committee called together by Mr. Gerald Balfour in the year 1905, and I do not think it would be out of place if I were here to mention the composition of the Committee in order to show your Lordships what a very representative body it was. It included names which stand foremost in this country in the departments of law, of commerce, and of finance. The Chairman of the Committee was the present Lord Chancellor, and on his being translated to this House his place was taken by Mr. Warmington. Among the other members were Mr. Hichens (Chairman of the Stock Exchange), Sir W. Holland (Chairman of the Associated Chambers of Commerce), Lord Faber, Sir Felix Schuster, and Sir Edgar Speyer. These gentlemen were all busy men, and I think that they deserve a word of thanks from the Government for giving up so much of their valuable time unreservedly to the purposes of the inquiry, which was conducted with so much ability, and which has enabled the Government to bring in the present Bill.

I should like to bring to your Lordships' notice the great importance to trade of the limited liability system, and the very great interests involved. Since this system was first inaugurated, in 1862, it has made the most wonderful progress; in fact it has increased by leaps and bounds until a very large proportion of the trade of this country is carried on by corporate bodies formed under the Companies Act of 1862. It may interest your Lordships to know that the number of companies now carrying on business under the Acts is 40,000, and the capital embarked in them reaches the huge total of £2,000,000,000 sterling. Your Lordships will fully understand with what a deep sense of responsibility the Government have approached any amendment of the Companies Acts, and, in order that no change should be proposed which could in any way be considered ill-advised or unnecessary, they have sought the advice and assistance of the Committee I have already mentioned.

The reference to the Committee was framed in wide terms—namely, to inquire into what amendments were necessary in the Acts relating to Joint Stock Companies; and afterwards the Board of Trade expressed a hope to the Committee that they would consider generally by what means Joint Stock Companies could best be fostered and encouraged, as well as the means to be taken by which illegitimate or fraudulent practices might be put an end to. I may now tell your Lordships that the policy of the Bill, so far as it deals with fraud, is by insisting on publicity, and it is hoped that by making information accessible to all who may seek it the best protection to investor and creditor may be created. This policy was included in the 1900 Bill, but is carried a good deal further in the present measure.

Now, as regards the Act of 1900, one of the requirements was that certain information should be given in every prospectus issued by a company; but, like most Acts of Parliament, this provision was immediately got round, and companies, in order to avoid complying with this requirement, simply did not issue a prospectus at all, but put the shares on the Stock Exchange and sold them there, instead of issuing them by means of a prospectus. Consequently the buyer had no knowledge of the circumstances of the company, and had no redress whatever, no matter how fraudulent the circumstances of the formation of the company might have been.

In the present Bill, my Lords, by the first Clause, it is hoped to stop this state of affairs by compelling every public company which does not issue a prospectus to deposit with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies a statement containing the same information as would have been contained in a prospectus had one been issued. It is only proposed to apply this section so far as public companies are concerned, and in this respect it is important to note that a distinction is made for the first time between public and private companies. The definition in the Bill of a private company is—a company which limits the number of its members to thirty and restricts the right to transfer its shares, and is prohibited by its regulations from issuing any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares or debentures. All such companies are not to be required to file a statement in lieu of prospectus. Although the distinction between public and private companies is introduced for the first time, the Act of 1900 divided companies into two classes, those which issued a prospectus and those which did not; and this provision, your Lordships will not be surprised to hear, has proved quite useless, for a large number of companies have been launched on the Stock Exchange and shares sold to the public without any information being available to the purchasers of the shares as to the enterprises in which they had become partners. Surely, my Lords, this is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I will now turn to Clauses 7, 8, and 10, which deal with the questions of issuing new capital at a discount and of the payment of interest out of capital during construction. As the law at present stands, companies formed under a special Act of Parliament usually have power to issue new capital at a discount and sometimes to pay interest during construction, but this does not apply to companies established under the Companies Acts. It is proposed by the Bill before your Lordships to remove these disabilities, subject to certain restrictions. Your Lordships will probably agree that it would be dangerous to give companies unrestricted power in these respects, and the Bill proposes, therefore, to limit the power of issuing new capital at a discount to companies which have carried on business continuously for more than two years; and, further, to insist that full information as to any capital issued at a discount shall be filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, and that the amount of the discount shall be stated in any balance-sheet of the company until the whole amount has been written off. In the same way, no payment of interest out of capital can be made unless the payment has been authorised by the regulations of the company and has received the sanction of the Board of Trade.

The Bill proposes, in Clause 11, to extend the particulars of mortgages and charges affecting a company's property which it is now necessary to register. This is a very important provision, and carries out what I think is the main principle of the Bill—namely, the affording of effective information regarding companies to those who have business dealings with them. We all know that the Legislature cannot make a man prudent or wise. But this Bill, in my opinion, certainly safeguards the fool from the knave as much as is possible; and this is, I think, best arrived at by giving ready facilities by which the public can inform themselves with regard to any material facts affecting the company which may be in question.

Another step in the same direction is the provision that every company is required to forward to the Registrar a statement of its assets and liabilities in the form of a balance-sheet. This change has long been demanded by a large section of the mercantile world, but has been opposed by a minority for fear that the giving of such information would disclose trade secrets. In order to meet this point the clause provides that the balance-sheet filed need not include a statement of profit and loss. It may interest your Lordships to know that balance-sheets have been required to be filed by the Law of India since 1882, and by the Law of Victoria since 1896.

Clauses 15, 16, and 17 deal with the same matter as was raised by my noble friend Lord Avebury in his Bill. These clauses are of great importance to bankers, and Clause 17 restores what had been believed to be the law for many years until a recent decision of the Court declared the contrary. Stated very briefly, the intention of Clause 17 is to enable companies to re-issue debentures which have been paid off, and care has been taken to insert in the clause words which it is hoped will effectually safeguard the rights of third parties. As the law stands at present, since the recent decision of the Court, to which I have just referred your Lordships, a debenture once paid off is dead and cannot be re-issued. An important result of this decision of the Court is that it is now impossible effectually to secure a current account by deposit of debentures, for directly the balance of the account is in credit the debentures are thereby in law repaid and the security is destroyed. Your Lordships will at once appreciate of what great importance this matter is to the commercial community, and that the present state of the law has a tendency to operate in restraint of trade.

I will now pass on. The next clause to which I think it necessary to draw your Lordships' attention is Clause 25. Under the Act of 1862 it was provided that every company should call a meeting once in every year, but, unfortunately, no penalty was imposed in case of a company not acting in accordance with the law The result has been that in the case of some companies, whose directors, perhaps, were not anxious to meet the shareholders, no meeting has been called sometimes for many years in succession. We propose to remedy this deficiency and to provide for a penalty. We propose also to afford the shareholder an additional resource by giving the Court power at any time to order a meeting to be called on due cause shown. The next clause to which I would call attention is Clause 33. As your Lordships are aware, the present law acts in some ways very harshly on directors, and by Clause 33 the Court is given power to relieve directors and promoters when the Court is satisfied that they have acted honestly and reasonably.

There is now, my Lords, only one more clause which requires a few words, and that is Clause 36, which deals with companies registered outside the United Kingdom. It is proposed to require from every such company a certified copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a list of the directors of the company, and the name and address of one or more persons resident in this country authorised to accept service of any notices required to be served on the company. Companies registered outside the United Kingdom will be further required to conform to the same requirements as regards filing of annual statements of assets and liabilities as are required from companies registered in this country. Further, any company using the word "Limited" must state in every prospectus and at every place of business the country in which the company was registered.

In the event of your Lordships giving favourable consideration to this Bill, it is proposed to introduce a Consolidation Bill with the object of consolidating into one Statute all the Companies Acts, which at present number seventeen. I have, my Lords, now outlined, I fear at some length, the main provisions of the Bill, and I should like to be allowed to say before I sit down that the Bill is in no way a Party one, and that the Government will welcome any suggestion which noble Lords may consider will strengthen the Bill on any point.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, the noble Earl who has just sat down spoke in high terms, but not in too high terms, of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade whose recommendations it is proposed to adopt in this Bill, and I am sure that not only the Government, but the commercial community also, are indebted to that very able Committee for the careful consideration they gave to this important subject. We are also indebted to His Majesty's Government for introducing a Bill which will, I think, on the whole give general satisfaction.

Not only bankers but the companies themselves who issue debentures are very anxious that the provisions removing doubts as to the validity of perpetual debentures and debenture stock should become law. There is a third class of persons who are also very much interested in the matter—namely, the general public. Misapprehension as to the real state of the law has led companies in perfect good faith to re-issue a number of debentures which, under the law as it at present stands, must be regarded as cancelled. That has introduced considerable doubt as to the *status* of debentures, and investors generally are very much interested in seein the matter put on a sound footing.

There will, I think, be general agreement in regard to the main provisions of the Bill; but it is not quite easy, at the first glance, to see what the full effect of the detailed provisions will be, and accordingly I am sure my noble friend will not think I am asking anything unreasonable in venturing to express the hope that he will allow a fair time to elapse before he asks the House to take the Committee stage, so that lawyers and those affected by the Bill may have time to consider, not merely the general provisions, but the exact wording in which they are embodied. Many persons will be glad to hear that His Majesty's Government propose to introduce a Bill with the object of consolidating into one Statute all the Companies Acts. At present the law relating to companies is to be found in a variety of Acts, and it will be of great convenience to have the law combined in one single measure. I beg to thank my noble friend for the introduction of this Bill, and for the very clear statement he has made in regard to it.

*LORD FABER: My Lords, I should like, if I may, to congratulate the noble Earl upon the speech in which he moved the Second Reading of this Bill, and I do so because I happen to know from my own experience that this is a very difficult and complicated question. I had the advantage of sitting on the Departmental Committee which was appointed in 1905 to consider the Companies Acts. There were several experts on that Committee. We sat very frequently, and gave long and careful consideration to this difficult matter. We also had the great advantage of sitting under the Chairmanship of the Lord Chancellor, whose clear guidance was of incalculable value to us. This Bill embodies the conclusions arrived at by the Departmental Committee. Its chief objects are to protect shareholders in limited companies and those traders who trade with limited companies.

The Bill proposes to enlarge the requirements of the Companies Act, 1900, so as to provide that no material fact which would be calculated to influence the minds of intending investors should be omitted from the prospectus. We on the Committee thought that a man who was applying for shares in a limited company should know everything that it was material for him to know, otherwise he would be unable to form a true and accurate judgment of the company and its standing. That provision is for the protection of shareholders. The next provision in the Bill is to render necessary the registration with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies of all mortgages and charges, including those relating to landed property and book debts. We thought—and I think rightly thought—that mortgages were very often danger signals, and that if a limited company created a mortgage it should be registered so that any shareholder in the company or any one dealing with the company should know of its existence.

This Bill removes doubts as to the validity of perpetual debentures and debenture stock, and enables a company to keep alive and re-issue debentures which have been redeemed. It has been lately held that debentures re-issued in the manner explained by the noble Earl in charge of the Bill are no better than waste paper, and the provision in theBill is therefore for the protection of the public at large. The next provision requires every company to file annually with the Registrar a statement of its affairs in the form of a balance-sheet and containing a summary of its capital, liabilities, and assets.

When I first had to do with business what obtained was this. If you traded with a man who called himself John Smith and anything happened to him, you knew that all John Smith possessed was liable for his debts. Time went on and John Smith turned himself into John Smith, Limited, and the man who traded with him then was in a very different position. A certain amount of capital was put into John Smith, Limited, and when the concern did badly and the capital vanished John Smith walked out of the concern. He had no liability whatever, and the poor creditor had to do the best he could. A limited company shelters itself behind its limit, and if a man turns his business into a limited company he should be called upon to file a balance-sheet every year at Somerset House, so that persons trading with the company can ascertain how it stands. I cannot think for a moment that there is any hardship in this. It is asked, Why should a private limited company be obliged to file a balance-sheet? Simply for the reason that it has become a limited company. If a private company places itself within the category of limited companies, then we believe it is for the good of trade generally that a balance-sheet should be published.

Another important provision in the Bill is to give power to the Court to grant relief to directors in cases where a breach of duty has been caused by honest oversight, inadvertence, or error of judgment. If a director commits himself in this way at the present time the penalty is far too severe for the offence. Clause 33 of the Bill will give absolution to directors who have acted honestly and in good faith. The point is that if you punish directors too severely for this kind of error you will not get directors of the sort you desire. Good men will be driven away and their places will be taken by directors of an inferior class.

The Committee felt that the question of foreign companies was one that should be dealt with, and I am glad to note that by this Bill every foreign company which, after the commencement of the Act, establishes a place of business within the United Kingdom, will be required to file with the Registrar a copy of its charter or statutes and a list of the directors of the company, together with the names and addresses of some one or more persons resident in the United Kingdom authorised to accept on behalf of the company service of any notices required to be served on the company, and to file annually with the Registrar such a statement of its affairs in the form of a balance sheet as is required of companies established in the United Kingdom. These are particulars to which we think we are entitled, and they are the sort required in foreign countries from English companies trading there. We thing it is a fair demand to make and that general advantage will result. Other opportunities will occur for discussing the details of the Bill; but I desire to say that, having sat for eighteen months on the Departmental Committee which inquired thoroughly into the whole question, I think the Bill is, on the whole, a very good one, and I hope your Lordships will see no objection to giving it a Second Reading.

LORD GLENTAWE: My Lords, I congratulate the noble Earl in charge of the Bill on the able way in which he has put this important measure before your Lordships. Although the Bill may not be perfect in all its clauses and may possibly need amendment as we have experience of its working, I think that on the whole the Bill meets present requirements so far as we can understand them. I quite agree with what was said by my noble friend Lord Avebury with regard to the question of debentures. The necessity for legislative action on that matter has been felt in commercial circles, especially by bankers, for a long time. Generally speaking, I think the Bill fairly meets the necessities of the day, and I congratulate His Majesty's Government on having brought it forward.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, the noble Earl who has presented this Bill to the House has done so with singular clearness, and I think there were very few of your Lordships who do not realise the great importance of the measure and the complexity and interest of the topics with which it deals. It affects very large interests, and is obviously a Bill which must attract a great deal of attention. The principle underlying its main provisions is that as wide a publicity should be given as every person interested in companies has a right to expect. That is the keynote of the measure. It will be necessary at a later stage to consider whether the machinery could be improved, but I think an honest effort has been made to secure by adequate penalties that the provisions of the Bill shall be carried out. It will be necessary in Committee to see whether that has been done uniformly, and whether all the clauses have adequate penalties to secure the publicity that is needed.

The noble Earl mentioned one clause which it is obvious will attract a good deal of attention both in the later stages of the Bill here and also elsewhere—the clause requiring an annual statement to be filed and the fullest information given. It is obvious that that is a clause of the very highest importance, but I do not find any adequate penalties annexed to it. I have no doubt that the clause is put down in perfect good faith and with the earnest desire that it should be efficacious, but it is obvious that there should be some penalty. It is obvious likewise that the clause relating to foreign companies will require some consideration from the same point of view. A point to be considered is how you are to make a foreign company liable in the event of its not carrying out the provisions of the Bill, and how you are to get at its officers, who may be living abroad and not amenable to our legislation, for the purpose of enforcing the penalties to which they are in theory liable. I merely indicate that as a point to which we shall have to direct some attention when the Bill reaches a further stage.

The provision in regard to private companies is one of the very highest importance. That clause must necessarily be approached from a different standpoint, and great care will need to be taken to ensure that it leaves this House in a form capable of being carried out in a useful and effective way. I am extremely glad to hear from the noble Earl that a Consolidation Bill is intended. The noble Earl was quite right in emphasising the fact that it would be a strictly consolidating Bill, because I know from my experience of another place that if any attempt is made in a Consolidation Bill to introduce anything by way of an amendment of the law you have the philosophers in the House—sometimes a numerous but not always an agreeable class—getting up and saying that as you are amending one matter why not amend another; and, in the end, your Consolidation Bill becomes almost hopeless of passing. I have no doubt your Lordships will readily accord a Second Reading to the measure now before you.

LORD COURTNEY OF PENWITH: My Lords, I do not wish to prolong the debate on this measure, which is eminently one of detail and will have to be considered in Committee. But I rise to make this practical suggestion, that it might be useful, with the view of economising labour in Committee, if the Report of the Departmental Committee and possibly the Minutes of Evidence on which that Report was founded could be again circulated for the information of your Lordships.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, the substance and purport of this Bill were so clearly stated by my noble friend who moved the Second Reading that it is quite unnecessary for me to elaborate his statement. As to the proposed Consolidation Bill, I agree that it ought to be purely consolidating. It is very desirable that what we did last year for marine insurance we should do this year for the company law, and in future years for other branches of the law. If the consolidated law on a particular subject is put down plainly in black and white in an Act of Parliament, then people know how to act. The Colonies and Dependencies of the Crown have often wished to have a code of our Criminal Law in order that they might make use of it as the foundation of their own legislation, but unfortunately no such code was available, and they have been obliged to have recourse to the Indian penal code. With regard to Clause 22, to which the noble and learned Lord referred, I would call attention to the fact that Section 26 of the Companies Act of 1862 does provide under penalties for a certain summary to be forwarded to the Registrar of Companies. Section 22 of this Bill merely has the effect of adding further duties to those already created by the Act of 1862. If in the course of considering this Bill, which, like all human productions, may be capable of improvement, any Lord thinks further provisions ought to be inserted we shall raise no objection, but, on the contrary, shall be very grateful for any suggestion.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Perhaps the noble Earl will tell us when he proposes to take the Committee stage. I suppose it will not be taken until after Easter.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: The Government had thought of taking the Committee stage on Wednesday, if there is no objection to that course.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Considering that the measure is very complicated and intricate and affects a great many interests, I think time ought to be allowed for private study of the Bill before it is considered in Committee. I would point out that a similar appeal was made by Lord Avebury, who is a great authority on this subject.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): We are in the hands of the House in this matter. There is a desire to get the Bill down to the other House as soon as possible, but, as the noble Marquess has made this appeal to us, we will not proceed with the Committee stage until after Easter.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

COUNTY COURTS BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, this Bill I can confidently state contains nothing except what has already been assented to by your Lordships in other Bills. I will only refer to three points. The Bill provides that the duties of certain selected registrars in hearing cases may be extended. They are to be allowed to hear more small cases in order to relieve any congestion which may be produced by the new duties imposed on County Court Judges. Power is also given in the Bill to make rules for the purpose of providing for summary judgment against a defendant when there is really no defence. There is already a practice of that kind in the High Court of Justice. It is desired with proper safeguards to extend it to County Courts. It is also proposed to allow pensions to be given to Judges in certain circumstances, and to provide in the case of their having to find deputies that the cost should be borne by the Treasury. It is very hard that a County Court Judge, whose income is only £1,500 a year, should be compelled to pay a deputy out of his own pocket when he is ill and has all the attendant expenses of his illness to defray.

I wish to refer to the absence of one proposal from the measure. I would have liked to make some provision with regard to the imprisonment under the Debtors Act of persons who are not able to pay and are now put in prison in increasing numbers. I am afraid that in some County Courts—though I do not impugn the good faith of the Judges—the administration of this law has led to great hardship. I regret that I cannot deal with the matter in this omnibus Bill. Perhaps I have laid myself open to the charge of irrelevancy in referring to the subject, but I believe many of your Lordships will sympathise with me in the irregularity.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, this Bill deals with a great many very important subjects, and the matter to which the noble and learned Lord referred at the close of his observations has excited the deepest possible interest in the country. There is a very strong feeling that the way in which the provisions in the Debtors Act relating to imprisonment for debt are sometimes administered might well be examined into with a view to considering whether a better and improved system could not be adopted in its place.

There are one or two points affecting this Bill which I hope my noble and learned friend will consider. There is under the Bill a power given of making rules. When solicitors are so much concerned in the administration of the County Courts I think it is right that they should have some voice in this matter. I have been repeatedly pressed on that subject in Ireland, and in Bills that I introduced I gave a *status* to the President of the Incorporated Society in Ireland to be consulted in the making of the rules. I would suggest that the President of the Incorporated Law Society here should have some voice in this direction. That is a matter which could very well be dealt with in this Bill without interfering with its structure.

Then the Treasury proposals are of the highest importance. The County Court Judges are an admirable body, and have a great deal of work to do, and I regret that there is no provision for considering whether an increase of salary might not be given in some cases. I am very glad the Bill proposes to provide pensions for Judges. We have in Ireland, where it is well sometimes to look for sound systems, a system under which County Court Judges can get two-third pensions; that system was in existence long before my time as Lord Chancellor, and now very tardily it is being introduced into England. There certainly ought to be a reasonable pension after a reasonable service. I agree that it is a reasonable thing that the State should pay deputy Judges, but I think they should be appointed by the Lord Chancellor. It is open to question whether it is wise, in calling into existence a system of paid deputies, to leave to the Judges themselves power to appoint the deputies. Therefore, when the Bill is in Committee I shall move, I hope with the sanction of my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack, that all deputies shall be appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

There is a power given in the Bill to the Lord Chancellor to appoint assistant Judges. That is a departure from our system, which has always been that a Judge should be appointed permanently and during good behaviour, and here power is taken to appoint assistant Judges without any durability of tenure. The only circumstance that I can see in mitigation of what might be a serious constitutional innovation is that there is a limitation put on the number and that they cannot exceed at any one time five. I am convinced that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack would never dream of appointing temporary Judges unless absolutely satisfied of the necessity, but I think this provision should be taken notice of as it is an innovation which requires much consideration.

VISCOUNT CROSS: My Lords, I simply rise to express my regret that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has not been able to introduce into this Bill some provision dealing with what is generally spoken of as imprisonment for debt. It is many years now since I sat on a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into this hardship. I am satisfied that great hardship is caused by the law as it exists at present. Persons are imprisoned for what is described as contempt of court, though they are quite unable to purge that contempt, for they have no money with which to do so.

Yet they are sent to prison practically for contempt of court. I regret extremely that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has not yet seen his way to introduce a clause making an alteration in this matter, but I hope that before the Bill does pass through your Lordships' House independent Peers at all events may suggest to His Majesty's Government some way of meeting this great difficulty.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, I desire to add a few words of encouragement to the Lord Chancellor. I hope and believe the noble and learned Lord will be strong enough to deal with this subject. If he does make any proposals he will receive support from many of those who have fully considered the matter. It is thirty-four years since I attempted to make some alteration in the law on this subject, and everything that has occurred since has caused me to think that an alteration would be satisfactory. This imprisonment for debt, for that is practically what it is, although it is called contempt of court, is a great hardship on the debtor. I recollect a County Court Judge telling of two men leaving prison together. One said to the other, "What have you been imprisoned for?" The reply was, "I have served fourteen days for stealing a duck." "Oh," said the first, "how very odd. I have had forty days for not paying for one."

The hardship on the debtor is not the only consideration. This is an economic question. If the system were got rid of the trader would resort to a ready-money system. In Scotland there is no imprisonment for small debts, with the result that the man who wants to buy a coat has to save his money before he buys it, and by paying ready money obtains it cheaply. The tradesman has no bad debts, and can sell his wares much more cheaply to the buyer. No money is spent at law, and goods can be obtained at a reasonable price. I hope attention will be given to the matter in every aspect, for the more it is inquired into the more certain I am that the evil that now exists will be shown to need a remedy.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Viscount Cross.

JUDICATURE BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

THE LORD CHANCELLOR): My Lords, I have thought about this Bill since the short discussion that took place upon it on Thursday last. I am, above all things, anxious to remove the idea that we have any design upon the permanent work of the Court, and accordingly I have placed an Amendment on the Paper. This clause provides that any division of the Court of Appeal may, with the consent of the Lord Chancellor, consist of two Judges sitting together. The Amendment on the Paper provides that this consent is "to be given only for special cause." Since putting it down it has occurred to me that that might leave the jurisdiction open, because it might be said that the Lord Chancellor's consent did not rule the question whether or not there was special cause. I think it ought to be left to the Lord Chancellor to say whether there is special cause or not, and, with your Lordships' permission, I propose to amend the Amendment by providing that it shall be with the consent of the Lord Chancellor, "to be given only if he is satisfied that there is special cause." I move the insertion of these words to reassure those who may be anxious on the subject.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'Chancellor' to insert the words 'to be given only if he is satisfied that there is special cause.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to. Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendment to be received on Monday next; and Bill be printed as amended. (No. 17.)

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I rise to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is in a position to make any statement as to the reasons which have led the Lord

Egerton of Tatton to serve notices to quit on his tenants in Cheshire in consequence of the passing of the Agricultural Holdings Act of last session.

This question is occasioned by a hasty, and, as I believe, entirely undeserved attack which has been made in another place upon a much respected Member of your Lordships' House. Early in the present year Lord Egerton of Tatton appears to have written a letter to his agricultural tenants pointing out to them that it would be necessary to make a new agreement in consequence of the Agricultural Holdings Act. No less than three Members of the House of Commons, without apparently instituting any inquiry, assumed that this was an evasion of the Act, and put Questions to the Government in that sense. The step which Lord Egerton appears to have taken, so far as his letter goes, is one of ordinary prudence. As your Lordships know, the Act of last year invalidates every agreement in England, Wales, and Scotland, so far as cultivation is concerned, and therefore it will be the duty, not only of Lord Egerton and other Members of your Lordships' House, but of every landowner, to consider present agreements with a view to making new ones. I cannot help believing that that was the only reason which prompted Lord Egerton to take the course he did; and if my noble friend is able to tell me, as I think he will be, that such was the reason, then I would suggest whether gentlemen in another place, before attacking a Member of this House, might not endeavour to infuse a little discretion into their zeal. I beg to ask the Question standing in my name.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, in answer to the noble Earl, I have to say that on 18th February a Question was asked in the other House of Parliament by Mr. Montagu on the subject that has been mentioned by the noble Earl.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: And by two others.

EARL CARRINGTON: Yes, consequential questions. I at once thought it my duty to communicate with Lord Egerton, calling his attention to the Question, and asking him if he wished to say anything on the subject. The noble Lord was travelling at the time, and he replied as follows in a letter dated Cairo, 26th February:

> "DEAR LORD CARRINGTON
>
> "I am glad of the opportunity (given me by your letter of 15th February, which I have just received) of contradicting the assumption made by Mr. Fullerton in his Question on the Paper of the House of Commons. I had no intention in giving formal notice to my tenants (on 2nd February, the first legal day in the North of England) to defeat the measure intended for the benefit of tenant farmers. If I had intended to defeat a measure, which, speaking generally, carries out the long-established practice of my estate, I should not have written a circular to my tenants that it was necessary under the new Agricultural Holdings Act to cancel the existing agreement, which was out of date, and to substitute for it a simpler form 'in harmony with recent legislation.' My tenants know well that I am as anxious as ever to maintain the cordial relations which have long existed between us, and which will not in any way be affected by the recent Act. I shall be glad if you will give the same publicity to this letter as has been given to the question before the House of Commons.
>
> "Believe me, yours sincerely,
>
> "EGERTON OF TATTON".

I was glad to receive this letter, although I knew what the answer would be, and I can inform the noble Earl that it will be read in the House of Commons in reply to a Question which will be put by my hon. friend Mr. Montague, and I hope the publicity which Lord Egerton naturally desires will be given to his letter. I trust the House will forgive me if for one moment I refer, with perhaps pardonable pride, to a sentence in Lord Egerton's letter. It is very pleasant to me, personally, and to the Government of which I am a humble member, to have the acknowledgment in this letter that the Agricultural Holdings Act of last session was intended for the benefit of the tenant farmers, and that, speaking generally, it carries out the long-established practice on Lord Egerton's estate.

There has undoubtedly, and not unnaturally, been some disquiet occasioned by the use of the words "notice to quit" in connection with the Act. I should like on this matter to quote the opinion of a body of practical men, who I cannot say were very favourable to the Bill when it was introduced. I refer to the Surveyors' Institute. At the Surveyors' Institute the Secretary of the Farmers'

Club, a well-known land agent, said that he for one, and he thought the general body of members would agree with him, would not dream of giving all the tenants notice to quit, and he added that in his opinion very grave responsibility would rest on the agent who advised his employer to take such a course. Mr. Aubrey Spencer, who read a paper on the Act at the same meeting of the Surveyors' Institute, and who is one of the best authorities on agricultural legislation, said that he would not like it to go out that he had advised that notices to quit should be given on every estate in the country, and that it would only be in exceptional cases that such a course would be desirable.

I have received a letter from a Yorkshire land agent in large practice stating that he disapproves the course of giving notice very strongly as disturbing to tenants and naturally making them suspicious. He adds that he has never found any difficulty in dealing with agreements thirty or forty years old which were never altered to meet the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings Acts of 1883 and 1890.

The noble Earl was, I think, a little too hard on the Members of the House of Commons in representing the questions they asked as a personal attack on Lord Egerton of Tatton. I see nothing of that sort in the Questions themselves. There have been articles in the *Land Agent's Record*—a journal which is very widely read—on the subject of contracting out of the Act, with an intimation that they were written in response to numerous applications for some light on the practical method of taking away from the Act its compulsory character. In the circumstances there is no cause for surprise if there is a certain uneasiness as to what may be the action of some landlords in regard to the Act. I do not for one moment think landlords will be guided by over-zealous agents or ingenious young barristers; I believe they will accept the Act as loyally as Lord Egerton of Tatton. If the Act is applied in a reasonable way on either side and interpreted with common sense it cannot fail to be of benefit to the agricultural community.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I have listened with satisfaction to the noble Earl's approval of the letter he has read, a letter such as was to be expected from Lord Egerton of Tatton. While I cordially agree with all that fell from the noble Earl with regard to Lord Egerton's letter, there were certain remarks towards the latter part of the noble Earl's speech on which I should like to say a word. The noble Earl seemed to think that landlords had no right to make any alteration in the relations between themselves and their tenants in the interval between their passing of the Act and its coming into operation. What was the object of postponing the date of the Act's coming into force unless it was to enable landlords and tenants to consider their relative positions? In the interests of agriculture as a whole, it is necessary for landlords to consider their position. There is such a thing as the rotation of crops, established by experience of the land; and a bad tenant, taking advantage of the new power of cropping, might do great harm to the land. That is why landlords are carefully considering this question. The noble Earl talked as if landlords were giving wholesale notices to their tenants. The idea is a figment of the imagination conjured in the minds of some supporters of the Government in the House of Commons who wish to create ill-feeling between landlord and tenant. When the noble Earl comes to giving advice to landlords as to what they should do, I must remind him that landlords have a right to consider their own interests without advice from the Front Bench. If the powers of landlords are unfair, let Parliament alter them; but I object to dictation from the noble Earl or anyone in his position.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I desire to say a word, not so much as a Member of the Government, but as a brother landlord of Lord Egerton in Cheshire. All of us who live in that county know how admirably the noble Lord's estate is managed—I could not name a better anywhere—and all who know him would be aware from the first that any step he took in relation to the new Act would be for the advantage of the estate and of the tenants. The noble Marquess who has just sat down alluded to the time of grace, so to speak, given before the Act came into operation. But I am bound to remind him that, while that time of grace was, it is perfectly true, given to enable people to make arrangements, it certainly was not given, nor do I know that it ever was claimed to be given, to enable people to evade the provisions of the Act, or in any sense to contract out of it. No such claim during all the debates that passed was ever made on the other side of the House. The only claim made was that time should be given to enable people to make the necessary arrangements, but not arrangements contrary to the provisions or even to the spirit of the Act. As regards the question of giving general notice, of course I do not know what the particular circumstances of my noble friend Lord Egerton's estate may have been; but, speaking generally, it does seem to me an unnecessary and rather startling act to give a general notice to all the tenants on one's estate If a landlord desires to reconstruct his form of agreement in consequence of the provisions in this Act, it would be by no means a difficult matter to carry that purpose out gradually in the course of two or three years instead of in the somewhat dramatic manner of a general notice. We all know that Lord Egerton had no malign intention whatever in the matter; but to those who are not acquainted with the particular circumstances it certainly would seem that a landlord who gave all his tenants notice to quit on the passing of a particular Act, might have in view some object not consonant with the spirit of the Act. Therefore, speaking generally, I should be inclined, like my noble friend behind me, to deprecate the practice of giving general notice.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, none of us differ from the noble Earl when he says that the period of grace allowed under the Act of last year was not intended as offering an opportunity for a wholesale evasion of the letter or the spirit of the Act. But what I wish to draw your Lordships' attention to is this—that, as I understand the matter, these charges were brought against Lord Egerton with the deliberate object of suggesting that he had attempted to evade the provisions of the Act.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: It was stated in terms that he was evading the Act.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: This discussion has been sufficient to show that nothing could be further from the truth than that charge. Whether it was necessary to take this particular means of adjusting the estate agreements to the new order of things created by the Act of last year I cannot say; but it is quite clear that the Act did so fundamentally alter the relations of the landlord and tenant that it must have become necessary on some estates that those relations should be formally readjusted, not with the idea of depriving the tenants of anything the Act gave them, but of adapting the old order of things to the new, and that, I think, is really all that has happened on Lord Egerton's estate.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I would remind the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture that when the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1883 came into force, fresh agreements were entered into on nearly every estate. The Minister for Agriculture has referred to the Institute of Surveyors as very learned in this matter. I understand from them that they are not at all certain whether the present agreements as they stand would be legal at the end of the two years, and whether it will not be absolutely necessary even for those who desire to give the fullest scope to the Act to make fresh agreements to comply with it. I do not see how you can legally bring fresh agreements into force without some formal notice to the tenants that there will be new agreements substituted for those at present in existence. Therefore I think that such an accusation as that which has been made against Lord Egerton is rather hard indeed. In Lincolnshire, the county with which I am more closely connected, nearly the whole of the present agreements are based on the Lincolnshire custom. That custom has been practically abolished by the Act of last year, and we shall have to see how far our agreements are waste paper and substitute others for them; but I understand that cannot be legally done without first giving formal notice to quit, whatever one may intend to do afterwards.

House adjourned at Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 14th March, 1907.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners for Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz:—Burnley Corporation Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—" To empower the London County Council to construct and work new tramways and to alter and reconstruct existing tramways and make street improvements and other works in the County of London; and for other purposes." Presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders Confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Scheme confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

London and North-Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

North Staffordshire Railway Bill; Basingstoke Gas Bill; Bude Gas Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill.—Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. — Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour. From Aldwarke; Auchinraith; Blantyre; Bolsover; Clay (No. 4) Pit; Grassmoor; Gwaunclawdd; Killamarsh; Manners; North Staveley; Oxcroft; Park Lane; Pleasley; Ripley; Silverwood; Tibshelf; Tyldesley; Waingroves; Warsop Main; Wellshot; West Hallam; and Windygates; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Ayr, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).

Return [presented 13th March] to be printed. [No. 79.]

ARMY RESERVE.

Copy presented, of Statement showing (1) Actuarial Calculation of the Normal Strength of the 1st Class Army Reserve; and (2) Explanation of the Difference between the Actual Strength of the 1st October, 1899, and the Normal [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

HONDURAS (ALIEN LAW) (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 1, 1907).

Copy presented, of Translation of the Alien Law of the Republic of Honduras, 8th February, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854 TO 1894.

Copy presented, of Eighteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission, with Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the County of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of shops within the urban districts of Royton, Failsworth, Compton, Lees, Littleborough and Milnrow [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TEACHERS' PENSION FUND (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Reports on the Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Fund (Ireland) on 31st December, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.

Address for "Return showing, for each petty sessional Court in England and Wales, the number and disposal of children and young persons under sixteen who were charged with offences during the last three months of 1906, and showing whether the defendants would probably have been released on probation under supervision, if such a system had been available; and also what steps, if any, are taken to separate children and young persons in Court from adult prisoners."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Foreign Trawlers in the Moray Firth.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of foreign trawlers observed working in the Moray Firth since the decision in the High Court of Justiciary in respect of the Moray Firth foreign trawlers' case.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Since the decision in the High Court of Justiciary eighteen different foreign trawlers have been observed working in the Moray Firth on ninety different occasions.

Municipal Milk Depôt.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he proposes to introduce legislation dealing with municipal milk depots.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Yes, Sir, I hope to do so.

Reafforestation in the Midlands.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham) To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether, in view of the fact that there is in existence in the Midlands a reafforesting association supported by voluntary subscriptions for reafforesting and beautifying the Black Country, which association has already done a considerable amount of work in this direction, he could see his way, if an application were made on behalf of any local distress committee, to make a grant for unemployed labour which could be utilised in this direction.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) If in a district where there is exceptional distress the distress committee applied to me for a grant in respect of the provision for the unemployed of work of the kind mentioned, I should be prepared to consider the application. No payment out of the grant, however, could be made after the 31st inst.

Glensharrold Evicted Tenant.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say what steps the Estates Commissioners have taken to reinstate Mrs. Margaret Windle, evicted tenant, on the O'Grady Delmege estate, at Glensharrold, in the county of Limerick, or to put her in possession of an equal portion of land on the estate, having regard to the fact that there are forty acres of untenanted land on it.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have investigated Mrs. Windle's application, and have decided that her case with others is to be considered in connection with any untenanted land which they may acquire. The Commissioners are approaching the owner on the subject of the untenanted land mentioned in the Question.

Mercers Estate, Londonderry.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the Mercers estate, in county Londonderry, agreed so far back as November, 1904, to purchase their holdings under the Land Act of 1903; that the Land Commission has had the estate inspected and surveyed a considerable time ago; whether he can state what is the cause of delay in having the sale carried out; and whether, if it is due to want of funds or insufficiency of staff, he will endeavour to have further funds provided and a sufficient staff employed.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The purchase agreements in this case were lodged with the Estates Commissioners in December, 1904, and January, 1905. The delay in making the inspection appears to be due to the inaccuracy of the maps lodged, necessitating their return for amendment. The inspection will shortly take place.

Moslems in Crete.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that, when the Powers took over practical responsibility for the administration of Crete, they declared that they would guarantee the lives and property of the Moslems. Whether, in spite of this undertaking, the Moslems have been abandoned to the cruelties of the so-called Christian community in Crete, who have forced them to fly from their properties and then taken possession of them; and what steps the Government are taking to protect the Moslems and secure for them some indemnity for the outrages and losses to which they have been subjected.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. The Mussulman population cannot be said to have been abandoned to persecution by the Christian community in Crete, as one of the principal reasons for the retention of the international contingents is the protection of Mussulman lives and property. The Consuls of the protecting Powers have, moreover, frequently urged on the High Commissioner the necessity of safeguarding Mussulman interests, and Monsieur Zaimis has recently given an undertaking to this effect. It has been found impracticable at present to make any arrangement whereby the Mussulman population can be indemnified for any losses they may have sustained during the recent disturbances.

Aliens Act.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is intended that the Aliens Act shall be so far retrospective that under it a man may be ordered to be deported, as happened in a case tried in Manchester last December, who came to this country when fourteen years of age; who has been here continuously for seventeen years; who has married a British-born wife, and has three English-speaking children; and who cannot speak the language of the country to which he is condemned to be deported.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The liability of an alien criminal to expulsion from the United Kingdom depends, not on the length or shortness of his residence here, but on his being convicted of an offence for which the Court which convicts him has power to impose imprisonment without the option of a fine. It can scarcely be argued that the offence is made less serious by the fact that the alien has long enjoyed the hospitality of this country. If the case to which the hon. Member refers is that of one Simon Bernstein, who was convicted at Manchester, on the 5th December last, of receiving stolen property, sentenced to nine months imprisonment and recommended for expulsion, I may point out that, according to information supplied to me in the prisoner's behalf, the wife is not British born, though she is stated to have been in England ever since infancy, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, there is no reason to suppose the man would have any difficulty in making himself understood in the country from which he came.

Belfast Licence Duties.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state the amount of licence duty paid by Belfast licensed traders in the years ended 10th October, 1905, and 10th October, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The accounts kept by the Inland Revenue Department at Somerset House do not show either the amounts for years ending 10th October or figures of duty paid "by Belfast licensed traders," as distinguished from licensed traders in the Belfast collection, which extends much beyond the City of Belfast. It would be possible to compile such a Return as is desired out of the local Belfast accounts, but its preparation would involve considerable expenditure of time and trouble.

Officers' Grants and the London Gazette.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Prime Minister whether it is the rule that all Orders in Council conferring extra grants on officers of the Army and Navy, over and above the amounts laid down by regulations, should be published in the London Gazette; and whether, in the case of the unprecedented increase of half-pay to the First Sea Lord of the Admiralty by Order in Council, 8th January, 1906, this rule was duly complied with.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) Yes, I believe it is the rule. But I understand that, during a long course of years, it has seldom been put into practice. I propose to confer with my right hon. friend the Lord President of the Council as to the course to be adopted in future.

Sir Andrew Fraser and Anglo-Indian Officials.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the speech of Sir Andrew Fraser before the Asiatic Society of Bengal, in which he stated that at the present moment the Anglo-Indian officials know considerably less of the people than the officials of old, and whether, in view of this statement, it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to bring forward legislation in the near future to give the peoples of India a greater share in the Government of India, according to Indian ideas.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have seen a report of Sir Andrew Fraser's speech, but I am not on that account prepared to make any announcement of the kind suggested in the Question.

Indian Railways' Rolling Stock.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the shortage of wagons on the Indian railways; and whether the Indian Government is responsible in any way for this shortage, or has curtailed any capital expenditure proposed to be incurred in this year's Indian Budget.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The question of the supply of rolling stock on Indian railways is receiving most careful attention. The responsibility for the amount allotted for the supply of rolling stock rests with the Secretary of State for India in Council; and the amount to be so alloted in 1907–8 will be considerably in excess of that which was devoted to this purpose in the year 1906–7.

Indian Trade Grievances.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the deputations of European merchants interested in

Indian commerce and of English chairmen of Indian railways, who approached him last Tuesday to state certain trade grievances, did so through the regular official channels, that is, with the sanction of the Viceroy of India; and whether he will now reconsider his refusal to receive a deputation of Bengali noblemen and merchants, who desire to lay before him the injury to their properties and to the internal trade of the country, besides other grievances due to their being now placed, by the partition of Bengal, under two administrations.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am not aware of any reason why a body of English railway directors and English merchants, resident in this country, should address me on a financial question through the Government of India. I fail to see the connection of the second part of the Question with the first, but the Answer to it is in the negative.

Nawab of Dacca's Estate.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the embarrassed condition of the estate of the Nawab of Dacca is now receiving the attention of the Government of Eastern Bengal; whether there is a proposal to advance a Government loan to meet his debts; and, if such is the case, whether he will explain why as a representative of that province he was appointed recently a member of the Legislative Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam are aware that the estate of the Nawab of Dacca is in an embarrassed condition, but no application for assistance has, so far as I know, been received by that Government, who would deal with the question, if it ever arises, in accordance with the ordinary laws applicable to such cases, which not infrequently occur. The Nawab, I may add, has already sat in the Legislative Council of the Governor General.

Instruction in the Irish Language.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in opposition to a rule of the National Board requiring teachers appointed in Irish-speaking districts to know Irish, assistant teachers having no knowledge of Irish were appointed to the following schools, Lackagh boys school, Selerna boys school, Selerna girls school, Claregalway girls school, Spiddal girls school, all in districts where Irish is practically the universal language.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The provision to which the hon. Member refers requires that in the case of new appointments to schools in Irish-speaking districts the teacher must have an oral knowledge of Irish. This provision was for the first time included in the code issued in September last. The appointments in question were made before that date.

Irish Intermediate Education Grant.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how much have the Intermediate Education Commissioners (Ireland) got yearly during the five years ended March, 1906, on account of Section 3 (ii.) of 53 and 54 Vic., c. 60; what are the other sources and annual amounts of income of the Board; whether any contribution is made from the Imperial Exchequer towards secondary education in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) During the five years mentioned, the average annual amount received by the Intermediate Education Board from Customs and Excise duties under the section quoted was £53,640. The average annual income derived from the Board's invested capital was £31,022; and from examination fees and other sources the Board received an average of £1,459. No contribution towards secondary education in Ireland is made from voted moneys, but the majority to the Board's income, namely, its receipts from the Customs and Excies duties, is derived from Imperial taxation.

Christian Brothers Schools in Ireland.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of pupils on the rolls of the primary schools of the Christian Brothers in Ireland, and the amounts contributed from the Imperial Exchequer annually towards the maintenance of those schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education have no information as to the total number of pupils in the Christian Brothers primary schools. There are seventeen of such schools in receipt of grants from the Commissioners. The number of pupils on the rolls of these schools on 31st December last was 3,230, and the payments to the teaching staffs from the Vote for Primary Education in 1906 was £4,935.

Irish Education Grant.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that under the Education Act of 1902 a special aid grant of £2,485,000 is proposed to be given to England in the year 1907; and, seeing that, according to the amount proposed to be given to England this year, Ireland's equivalent share should be £325,000, will he state what action he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The equivalent for Ireland to the aid grant under the Education Act of 1902 is the £185,000 provided annally in the Ireland Development Grant. This latter sum was agreed upon as a final settlement of Ireland's claims, and I see no reason for reopening the decision. I may point out that the equivalent given to Ireland was not an equivalent for the total aid grant, but for the extra sum by which that grant exceeded the former grants which it replaced, in accordance with Section 10 of The Education Act, 1902.

Carmichael—O'Ferrall Estate, Longford.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the cause of delay in the sale of the Carmichael-O'Ferrall estate at Carclara, county Longford; whether he is aware that the tenants are anxious to become tenant proprietors on fair terms; and will he direct that the inspector visits and reports on this case forthwith.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that no originating application or request in respect of the sale of the estate referred to has been lodged with them.

Irish Farmers' Housing Loans.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, with a view to helping poor struggling farmers in Ireland to build decent sanitary dwellings for their families, he would take into consideration a scheme which would enable county councils in Ireland to lend to small farmers, on the security of their holdings, sums not exceeding two-fifths of the assessed value of the interest on their holdings for the purpose of building such houses; whether he is aware that many farmers' houses, especially in congested areas, are quite as miserable and, from a sanitary point of view, uninhabitable as houses occupied by labourers and others; and whether he will consider the advisability of endeavouring to remedy a state of things which is at present a source of disease in many districts in Ireland by providing for the use of county councils money at the 3¼ per cent. rate, and arranging for repayment over a lengthened period.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Under the Land Act of 1881 the Board of Works make loans to farmers for works of agricultural improvement, which I believe is interpreted to include farm dwellings. The loan is made on the security of the holding. It is not clear that any benefit would be derived from interposing the county council between the borrowers and the lenders.

Land Purchase Dispute at Lisnageera.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are aware that in the case of Charles Burnett, a tenant on Sir Walter Nugent's estate at Lisnageera, county Longford, who purchasd his holding, under the Land Act of 1901, in 1903, a statute acre of land was taken off this farm for a labourer's cottage for which landlord and tenant received compensation for severance, yet the Commissioners insist on charging Burnett for the full area of his original farm, and refuse to deduct from the same the acre which he has lost, and which is now the property of Granard No. 1 District Council; whether he is aware that this has been going on for four years, so that four years annuity in respect of this acre which he does not possess have now been charged and recovered against him; and will he therefore direct that this case be inquired into, and that the necessary rebate and reimbursement be made forthwith to Burnett.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Land Commission inform me that this matter has been brought to their notice. No payment in reduction of the outstanding advance has yet been made to the Commissioners in respect of the plot stated to have been taken for a labourer's cottage, and the Commissioners are therefore unable to make a reduction in the annuity. They are, however, making inquiries into the case.

Carbery Evicted Tenant.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Patrick M'Carthy, an evicted tenant on the Carbery estate, has yet been reinstated in his holding, and, if not, what is the cause of the delay; and will steps be taken to place him in immediate possession of his farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) So far as the Estates Commissioners are aware, M'Carthy has not yet been reinstated. On the 6th instant the Commissioners received a communication from the owner's solicitors accepting the price offered for the evicted farm, and stating that the present occupier would surrender on receiving the compensation offered to him. The matter is receiving the Commissioners' attention.

Donegal Harbour Accommodation.

Marquess of HAMILTON (Londonderry): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the want of harbour accommodation in Downings Bay, county Donegal, where on 5th December, 1906, thirteen fishing boats were driven from their anchorage and wrecked, His Majesty's Government contemplate constructing a shelter pier; and, if so, whether they propose to begin the work before next winter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) A sum of £4,500 has already been expended under the Marine Works Act upon the extension of the existing pier at Downings Bay. My predecessor considered the question of constructing a harbour of refuge at this place, but was advised that the probable expenditure would be so great as to render the work practically prohibitive. Further inquiries are being made as to whether some such work could not be undertaken at a reasonable cost.

Cavan Evicted Tenant.

Mr. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are about to proceed with the reinstatement of Patrick McConnell in the matter of the estate of J. H. Ingham, county of Cavan; and, as this evicted tenant fulfilled all the conditions required by the owner in March, 1906, will he say what has been the cause of the delay and when reinstatement is likely to take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have sanctioned an advance to McConnell to enable him to purchase his former holding, and are now in communication with the landlord with a view to securing McConnell's immediate reinstatement.

Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an increased grant has been made this year by the Department for Agriculture and Technical Instruction to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; if so, what is the amount of this year's grant; when and by what body was it voted; for what purposes was it voted; and whether any portion of this sum is to be used for raising the salaries of the officials of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) No increased grant has been made this year. The Agricultural Board at its last meeting (27th February) decided that the grant from the Department for the scheme submitted for the current year should not exceed £3,700, the amount of last year's grant, without the matter being again considered by the Board. The grant was voted for promoting the adoption of co-operative methods by the agricultural classes, including the formation of co-operative societies for the manufacture and sale of butter, for the purchase of farm requisites, and for the scutching of flax, and the formation of agricultural credit societies. A portion of the amount was authorised to be applied to the increase of the salary of one official in consideration of his giving his whole time to the work of the society, and for slight increases to minor officers.

Administration of Justice in Ireland.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the remarks of Mr. Justice Ross, in the Land Judge's Court, Dublin, on Friday, the 8th instant, when he stated that Ireland suffered from a plague of cowardice to bring the persons who are doing wrong to justice; and whether he will bring these remarks under the notice of the Royal Irish Constabulary authorities with a view to urging greater efforts on their part to bring wrong doers to justice.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) According to the newspapers, Mr. Justice Ross said that the people were suffering from the plague of cowardice in not bringing wrong doers to justice. The learned Judge did not suggest that there was any laxity in this respect on the part of the police.

Earl Park Outrage.

MR. ARKWRIGHT (Hereford): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a report concerning the events which occurred at the house of Thomas Connolly, at Earl Park, on the 10th December last, when shots were fired into the house; whether this action was taken in consequence of Connolly having held a farm, which had been in his family for seventy years, contrary to the orders of the local branch of the United Irish League; and whether Connolly is now receiving protection from the police.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) This Question appears to refer to Mr. Thomas Conway (not Connolly), of Earl's Park. Mr. Conway's house was not fired into, but he and his family reported to the police that two shots were fired near his house on the date mentioned. The police authorities have no knowledge of the motive for firing the shots; Mr. Conway is receiving all necessary protection from the police.

Intimidation in County Roscommon.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the charge of Mr. Justice Kenny to the grand jury of the county Roscommon, to the effect that the county inspector informed him that there was a considerable amount of veiled intimidation in connection with the grazing system; and what action he proposes taking in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have seen a newspaper report of Mr. Justice Kenny's statement to the effect mentioned in the Question. The police are taking all possible measures for the preservation of the peace and for bringing offenders to justice.

Roscommon Jury's Action.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that at the conclusion of the trial for unlawful assembly at Tonlagee, county Roscommon, when the jury acquitted the prisoners, Mr. Justice Kenny directed the Crown Solicitor that no member of that particular jury be permitted to act in any other case which came before him; and what steps, if any, he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) At the request of my right hon. friend I beg to answer this Question. I am informed that the facts are as stated, but I do not think that the results of this trial affords any ground for altering the instructions which I have already given to the Crown Solicitor as to the discharge of his duties. I do not, therefore, propose to take any action in the matter.

Soldiers' Song Book.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he will lay upon the Table a draft copy of the Soldiers' Song Book issued to officers commanding units of regular troops; and whether it includes the National Anthem, and any of the territorial (old county) songs of the county Down.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The question of compiling a book of songs for soldiers is now under consideration, and the War Officer is in communication with general officers commanding on the subject. The hon. and gallant Member is, however, mistaken in supposing that a book has yet been issued, and it will be time to consider his suggestions when the scheme is more advanced.

Government Employees and Volunteer Camps.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminister): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether Government employees who are members of the Auxiliary Forces are given any special facilities for attending camp.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The hon. Member is apparently alluding to the extra week's leave granted for the extended training. As the latter is suspended, the necessity for the extra week has lapsed for the present.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH: To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether Government employees, if called up for six months training on mobilisation under the new Army scheme, will have their appointments kept open for them and will be paid their salaries or wages during the time that their corps are under training or on active service.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a Question on a similar subject put yesterday by the hon. and gallant Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire, which will give him all the information at present at my disposal.†

Harrods' Packers Wages.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the War Office have entered into an arrangement with Harrods, Limited, to supply soldiers holding pensions as packers at 5s. per week wages; and whether he is aware that this firm a short time ago discharged over thirty packers earning 18s. per week and are now filling their places with soldiers at wages which make civilian labour impossible.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Harrods for training as packers a few soldiers who are shortly completing their service with the colours, with a view to fitting them to obtain employment in civil life on passing to the Reserve. I am not aware that this arrangement has resulted in the discharge of skilled packers, but I am in communication with Messrs. Harrods on the subject. I need hardly add that we have no intention of allowing serving soldiers, under any scheme of technical instruction, to compete with civilians at wages below the market rate.

Ireland and the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill will be applicable to Ireland; and, if not, whether there will be neither county associations, nor special reservists, nor territorial Army in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Part I. of the Bill, which deals with county associations, can, by Order in Council, be made applicable to Ireland at any time and Part III. which relates to the special reservists does apply to Ireland as much as to the rest of the United Kingdom. The existing Militia in Ireland will be dealt with under the provisions of the Bill as soon as it becomes Law.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 23.

Musketry Practice for the Territorial Force.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether under his scheme of Army reform, it is contemplated that the territorial force shall carry out an annual course of musketry practice; whether, if so, that course is to be at times other than the eight or fifteen days of prescribed training; whether the men and officers are to receive pay when so employed; and whether the practice is to be under the command of the major-general commanding the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) There will be an annual course of musketry, which will be carried out throughout the year and not during the annual camp, except in cases where special conditions may demand a relaxation of this rule. This practice will normally be under the control of the divisional commander. Officers and men will not receive pay for musketry practice carried out at times other than during the annual camp, but grants to cover necessary expenses in connection with the course will be provided on the same basis as such grants are now given to the Yeomanry and Volunteers.

Slandering the Army.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a handbill circulated in Dublin which contains slanders and falsehoods as to the soldiers of the Irish regiments and of the British Army; and whether he will take the necessary steps not only to prohibit its further circulation, but also adequately to punish those responsible for its publication.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My attention has not been specially drawn to the handbill alluded to, nor do I think it expedient in the interests of recruiting to take the action suggested.

Standerton Garrison's Water Supply.

Mr. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the Army in South Africa has undertaken to pay to the municipality of Standerton for water a sum of not less than £1,460 a year for twenty years; whether this obligation would remain, under the contract, in case the garrison were reduced or altogether withdrawn before 1924; whether the daily requirements of the troops at Standerton are already below the fixed contract minimum of 80,000 gallons; whether this contract was approved by the War Office before completion; and, if not, on whose authority was it signed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This Question deals with matter arising from the Report of the Controller and Auditor-General on the accounts for 1905–6. As these matters will come before the Public Accounts Committee I can hardly discuss them at the present time.

Army Refunds.

Mr. BOWLES: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the General Officer Commanding in South Africa has power to approve the refund of £14,988 6s. 1d. to Messrs. Wilson and Worthington shown on page 140 of the Army Appropriation Accounts for 1905–6; whether an approval of this refund by that officer would bind the War Office to allow it; and whether such approval has been given.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The General Officer Commanding had power to enter into the original agreement to sell the supplies, and the Law Officers advise that under the terms of that agreement the refund was justified. The Answer to the remaining inquiries is in the affirmative.

Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: To ask the Secretary of State for War if, having regard to the importance of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, he can postpone the Second Reading to the third week in April, instead of taking it directly after the recess.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane*): A long period has already been given between the First and Second Reading for considering the Bill, and I do not think it would be convenient to extend it.

Training Seamen for Foreign Mercantile Marines.

Mr. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Governments of the United States or of Germany provide, out of public funds, steam or sailing ships for the training on voyage of officers and seamen for the merchant service.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I understand that in Germany no ships are provided out of the public funds for the purposes mentioned. I believe that three training ships have been maintained by the United States Government for the last few years, namely, one each at New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

East African Protectorate.

Sir JOHN RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he has received a Report from Mr. A. Macdonald on the agricultural possibilities of the East African Protectorate; and, if so, can he indicate its nature, or will he lay it before the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) A Report has been received from Mr. A. Macdonald which deals mainly with the steps to be taken for the reorganisation of the Agricultural Department of the East African Protectorate. A second Report, dealing with agriculture generally in the Protectorate, is being prepared by him; and when it has been received, the Secretary of State for the Colonies will consider the question of laying it before the House.

Local Government Board Reports.

Mr. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether seeing the Thirty-fifth Annual Report only carries us back to March 1906, and that some of the inspectors' Reports therein are one year old to date, he could say when the Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Board will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The complete Report for 1906–7 could not be published before the autumn, looking at the date at which some of the informaion included in it will probably be received by the Board.

London Mail Van Drivers' Wages.

Mr. SEDDON: To ask the Postmaster-General, whether he is extending his inquiry respecting the wages and conditions of service for mail van drivers outside the metropolitan area.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have made inquiry respecting the wages and conditions of service of mail cart drivers at provincial towns in several cases to which my attention has been drawn, and I shall be glad to examine any other case which the hon. Member has in mind.

American Gooseberry Mildew.

Mr. BELLOC (Salford, S.): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he has any official information showing that the American gooseberry mildew is a new disease to Europe, imported from America about 1900, and since then introduced into England; and, if so, whether the Board will take immediate steps, by the issue of a new circular, or otherwise, to impress this fact on growers with the object of making them realise the necessity of treating the mildew as a new infectious disease of which they have hitherto had no experience.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) It is generally agreed that the disease in question is a comparatively new one so far as Europe is concerned. The information in our possession shows that it has existed in Worcestershire for the last four years. We have already issued one circular advising fruit growers as to the best methods for preventing the spread of the disease, and we propose to issue another in the spring. The point to which my hon. friend draws attention will not be lost sight of, and, as he is aware, a Bill to confer further powers upon the Board and upon the local authorities to deal with insect and other pests generally will shortly be introduced by my noble friend.

Customs Clerks' Salaries.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether there is any department employing a large number of clerks where the initial salaries of the lowest permanent class differs from the class next above to such an extent as is the case in the Customs Statistical Office, where the initial salaries are £55 and £190 respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) In the classification of a department regard must generally be paid to the maximum salary of one class when the minimum salary of the class above is fixed. But there is no necessity to maintain any particular relation between the minimum salary of one class and the minimum salary of another.

Customs Assistant Clerks' Memorial.

MR. O'DOWD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will explain the cause of the delay with regard to the answering of memorials forwarded to the Treasury by the new class of assistant clerks in the Customs Statistical Department; and whether he is aware that a petition forwarded to the Treasury from this class on the 8th January last was still in the Customs Department on the 1st March.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The memorial referred to has just been received at the Treasury, but I have not yet had an opportunity of examining it. Two memorials from the assistant clerks in question were presented in the year 1906 and were carefully considered by the Board of Customs before they were sent on to the Treasury.

Distribution of Oil on Heavy Seas.

MR. L. HASLAM: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any official inquiry has been held and report issued as to the efficacy of inventions for the distribution of oil from vessels on heavy seas, as a preventive of danger; if not, will he consider the advisability of instituting an inquiry on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) No official inquiry has been held or report issued as to the efficacy of particular inventions for the distribution of oil on heavy seas, but the general question was considered by the Life Saving Appliances Committee which issued its Report in 1889. As at present advised the Board of Trade see no advantage in instituting an inquiry.

Dockyard Writers' Petitions.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when it is expected the reply to the petitions of the dockyards' writers will be communicated; and, seeing that no definite reply has been made to their petitions for over three years while those of other dockyard employees have been answered annually, whether some information as regards the intentions of the Admiralty towards the writers can be given forthwith.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The inquiry into the petitions of the dockyard writers has been concluded. The orders to the dockyards are now being prepared, and it is anticipated they will be issued in a few days.

Assam Coolies' Children's Education.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what steps have been taken to secure the education of the children of tea-garden coolies in the province of Assam.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) In June last the Government of India requested the Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam to depute special officers to inquire into the whole question of the education of children on tea plantations, and to submit proposals, in consultation with the planters, for improved arrangements. Reports have since been received, and the Government of India propose to address me on the subject as soon as they have received and considered the views of the local governments and of the district officers concerned.

Bengal Chowkidari Tax.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the fact that the Police Commission made recommendations some time since with a view to relieve the Bengal agriculturists of at least a portion of the chowkidari tax, which is levied for the remuneration of village watchmen, will he request the Government of Bengal to report as to the expediency of giving effect to the recommendation.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I will inquire whether revised instructions for the assessment of the tax have been issued by the Government of Bengal.

Doagh National School.

COLONEL McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the grant promised in aid of the improvement of the national school at Doagh will be given; what the amount will be; and if he is aware that all preliminaries having been adjusted, there is a feeling in the district that no further delay should occur.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they have provisionally approved of the erection of a new school-house at Doagh, but no grant has been promised, and they cannot yet state what the amount of the grant will be or when it will be possible to make it. The necessary preliminaries have not been completed, the required extension of the site has not been offered, nor has evidence of title been submitted. Moreover, the case is not as pressing as many others which have had to be suspended.

Irish Land Purchase Delays.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether applications lodged as far back as 1st July, 1905, for the sale of properties to tenants under The Land Purchase Act, 1903, are still undealt with and have not been declared; and whether he will take some steps to ensure a decision being announced at an early date by the Commissioners and thus prevent the loss of income which both landlords and tenants are now suffering.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. All applications are dealt with in order of priority of lodgment, as laid down in the regulations. Interest in lieu of rent is collected by the Land Commission and paid to vendors pending the making of the advances.

Charge against New Quay Policemen.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if Sergeant Crummy and Constable O'Shea of the New Quay police station, county Clare, were reported to District Inspector Hildebrand, of Ballyvaughan, for drinking and distributing drink on licensed premises on the 5th of last August, that being Sunday; is he aware that these charges were supported by several independent witnesses in writing, and signed in the presence of the said district inspector; and will an inquiry be held.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) A complaint to the effect stated was made to District Inspector Hildebrand, who fully investigated the matter and took statements from a large number of persons. Several of these supported the complaint, but the majority disproved it. The facts were fully reported to the Inspector-General, who was satisfied that there were no grounds for taking further action. The misconduct of the police was alleged to have taken place in August, while the complaint was not made till November, immediately after the person who complained and two of his supporters had been convicted for drunkenness and assaulting Constable O'Shea.

Fungicide as a Remedy for Gooseberry Mildew.

MR. BELLOC: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can give any information as to whether spraying with a fungicide has been found to be efficacious in stopping the spread of the American mildew in Ireland during the past six years.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Department of Agriculture are advised that spraying with fungicide has not hitherto been found to be altogether efficacious in Ireland as a remedy for American mildew. At the same time the results have, in some cases, been sufficiently satisfactory to warrant the hope that better results will follow the use of a fungicide in the present year.

Labourers Housing Accommodation at Castlebar.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a recent resolution of the Castlebar, county Mayo, Urban District Council complaining of the hardships inflicted on the labourers of urban districts, owing to their being debarred from the benefits of the Labourers Act of 1906; and would he introduce legislation so to amend the Act of 1906 as to enable labourers of urban districts to participate in its benefits.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The resolution in question has been received. As to the possibility of legislation, I am afraid I can add nothing to the reply which I gave to the Question of the hon. Member for Limerick on 26th February.†

Irish Arterial Drainage.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Arterial Drainage Commission (Ireland) have reported that arterial drainage in Ireland is a vital necessity, page 15, and emphasise the need of early legislation on the subject, page 16; and, if so, whether the Government intend to act on the recommendation.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The recommendations of the Arterial Drainage Commission will receive full consideration. I am not yet in a position to make any statement as to possible legislation.

Officers' Employment Regulations.

SIR GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of Army Order No. 275, dealing with the promotion of officers beyond the rank of lieutenant-colonel, it will in future be possible to inform officers at the time of their completing their term of employment as lieutenant-colonel whether they are on the list of officers selected for further employment, and thus permit them to retire immediately if there is no intention of employing them in the rank of colonel.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The desirability of giving the information suggested in the Question is fully recognised by the War Office. It is hoped that when the new system of promotion is in full working order this will be found practicable, but until the present large list of colonels is considerably reduced it is feared that it will not be possible.

Ballincollig Barracks.

MR. A. ROCHE (Cork): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that from £60,000 to £80,000 was spent between the years 1900 and 1906 in fitting up the Ballincollig Barracks for cavalry, that in the district adjoining stables and officers' houses were built, and also houses for lodging soldiers' families, and that inconvenience is caused to the owners of those houses as well as to the farmers and trading community in the surrounding district by the removal of the men; and whether, seeing that when the cavalry were removed from Edinburgh the inhabitants remonstrated, with the result that not alone was the former complement replaced, but the numbers were increased, he will take steps to restore, if possible, a cavalry regiment to Ballincollig.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane*). Under the new scheme of Army organisation, Ballincollig will be garrisoned by a brigade of Royal Field Artillery who move there in May. The strength of the troops there, including the depot 6th Dragoons, will then approximate to 650 of all ranks. The cavalry regiment in Scotland to which the hon. Member alludes is leaving the Scottish command in July.

The Butter Bill.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): To ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to take the Butter Bill.

(*Answered by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*) On Monday.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1447.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Channel and Home Fleets.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the crews of the armoured ships of the Channel Fleet and the Nore division of the Home Fleet will remain with their ships for the full two years commission; if not what distinction is to be made between the two fleets in respect of the length of service in these ships; and whether the boys drafted into the Home Fleet to complete their training, instead of being sent to sea for four months in a training cruiser, are regarded as excess complement.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The system of two years commissions for the Channel, Atlantic and Foreign Fleets will not be abandoned. The length of time served by nucleus crews in the Home Fleet is not a fixed period, but must depend on the proportion of ships in the Home and Foreign Fleets respectively. The arrangements in regard to the drafting of boys to the Home Fleet are still so far incomplete that it is impossible to make any statement.

Fleet Distribution.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is the intention to replace ships in the Channel, Atlantic, and Mediterranean Fleets when requiring extensive refits; and, if so, will the fully-manned ships of the Nore Fleet be taken for this purpose.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The present intention is that the fully-manned ships of the Nore Division of the Home Fleet will not be taken for this purpose.

The Commander of the Home Fleet.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet, in addition to living in a house at Sheerness, will be frequently away from the Nore Division of the Home Fleet while inspecting the other ships under his command at Portsmouth and Plymouth.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It is not anticipated that the absence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet from his flagship, or the absence of the flagship from the main fleet, will be more frequent or more prolonged than in any other seagoing fleets.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Has the Commander-in-Chief of the Channel Fleet an official residence on shore?

The reply was inaudible.

Navy Hat Ribbon Tenders.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether he is aware that though, in 1905, fresh tenders for the supply of hat ribbons were called for by the Admiralty, two-thirds of the total supply were thereafter obtained from the original contractor at prices higher than those quoted by another accepted tender; whether this course involved a loss, between 20th October, 1905, and 31st March, 1906, of over £500; and, if so, whether any steps have since been taken to prevent a continuance of such losses.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: This question, which belongs to the previous administration, is now under review by the Public Accounts Committee, and it would therefore be contrary to the usual practice for me to make any statement.

MR. BOWLES: Has anything been done to prevent a continuance of the practice?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I would suggest that the hon. Gentleman should await the Report of the Committee.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): Will the House have this session an opportunity of discussing the Report of the Public Accounts Committee? We have already been asked to defer several questions until we get that Report.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am afraid that has not come within the scope of my vision yet.

Colonial Conference and Disarmament.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the cost of armaments to the taxpayers of the United Kingdom, it would be possible at the forthcoming Colonial Conference to obtain an expression of opinion as to the extent to which the Colonies themselves regard this expenditure as necessary for their protection.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I do not see any prospect of obtaining from the Conference such an opinion as the hon. Gentleman would desire to have.

Trinidad Labourers and the Panama Canal.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Ealing Division of Middlesex, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, if His Majesty's Government sanctioned the contract under which labourers from Trinidad have been recruited to work on the Panama Canal, to which contract the Colonial Government assented at the end of October or beginning of November last.

MR. CHURCHILL: The contract has not been submitted to His Majesty's Government. It was sanctioned by the Governor of Trinidad in the exercise of own discretion.

Cost of Transvaal Election.

MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will give a Return showing the votes cast at the recent Transvaal election for each candidate and the electorate in each division, and, if possible, the percentage that polled in each instance.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Transvaal Government shall be asked to supply this information which shall be laid when received.

Colonial Conference Correspondence.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that correspondence between this country and Canada in reference to the Colonial Conference was published in Canada on 18th February, but was not ciculated to Members of this House till after the debate on the Colonial Office Vote on Account on 11th March, and that a despatch from Mr. Deakin to Lord Elgin of 4th December, relative to the New Hebrides Convention, was published in Australia on 8th March, and has not yet been published in England; and if there is any reason why such correspondence should not be published as soon in this country as in the Colonies; and if there was any sufficient reason for withholding the correspondence above referred to until after the debate on 11th March.

MR. CHURCHILL: The publication in the Colonies of any correspondence with the Secretary of State not of a confidential character rests entirely with the Colonial Governments concerned. The Secretary of State was not aware until a few days ago when his attention was drawn to statements which appeared in the Press that the two despatches referred to by the hon. Member had been published in Canada and Australia respectively. The delay in publishing here the Canadian despatch arose from the necessity of consulting the Colonial Governments, as I explained in the Answer which I gave on the 20th February to a Question by the hon Member for Leicester,† before including in the Paper the final despatch of the Secretary of State. The Australian despatch can be published as soon as I receive a communication which is on its way from the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and which should form part of any published correspondence.

In reply to a further Question,

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick) said: It is always the desire of the Secretary of State to give the House the earliest possible information.

Canadian Negotiations with Germany.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 830.

State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the statements of Canadian Ministers pointing to an understanding with Germany, whereby the Canadian surtax would be removed; if he is aware what are the nature and scope of the direct negotiations between Canada and Germany implied in these statements; and what means are taken to keep the British Government advised of negotiations between self-governing Colonies and foreign countries.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have seen Mr. Fielding's speech of 29th November last, to which I presume the hon. Member refers, but I do not gather that Mr. Fielding indicated in that speech that any understanding with Germany had been arrived at, or that any negotiations had taken place between Canada and Germany. If any such negotiations had taken place, the Governor-General would have informed the Secretary of State. I would remind the hon. Member that so far as the surtax is concerned, this would be removed automatically under the Canadian law which imposed it as soon as Germany admits Canadian goods to the benefit of most favoured nation treatment.

Canada and Austrian Trade.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if the Government have any knowledge as to whether Canada is negotiating with Austria in regard to a modification of tariff for Austrian goods entering Canada.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is not aware of any such negotiations.

Jamaica.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Papers referring to matters connected with the Jamaica eathquake and to Sir Alexander Swettenham's resignation will be issued.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is in communication with my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the question of publication is receiving consideration. I cannot say more at the moment.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Has not the hon. Gentleman already promised that Papers shall be laid?

MR. CHURCHILL: I am not aware of any such promise. The only statement that has been made was that we would consider whether any, and if any, what Papers should be laid. That process is still going on.

Egyptian Judicial Appointments.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Fathy Bey Zaglool, who acted as Judge in the Denshawi trial, has been appointed under-secretary at the Ministry of Justice; whether the British Representative in Egypt was in any way consulted in reference to the appointment; and whether the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs have received any protests from Egypt against this appointment.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have received one protest against the appointment purporting to be signed by thirty-one persons. For the rest, I can only refer to my previous Answer, to the effect that I had no information, and it was not a matter in which His Majesty's Government should interfere.

MR. DILLON asked whether His Majesty's representative in Egypt was consulted in regard to all these appointments; and whether the right hon. Gentleman's attention had been directed to the extremely serious effect on public opinion in Egypt of the promotion of this Judge so soon after the trial.

SIR EDWARD GREY: This is a point on which I have perfect confidence in the discretion of His Majesty's representative.

MR. DILLON said that perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would be good enough to answer the Question whether His Majesty's representative in Egypt was not, as a matter of fact, consulted with regard to all these appointments.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot say whether he is consulted in regard to all these appointments. Very likely he is consulted in regard to most of them, and, if so, I have no intention whatever of questioning the conclusion to which he comes.

Egyption General Assembly.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, having regard to the importance of the resolutions recently recorded by the Egyptian General Assembly, he will lay a copy of them upon the Table of the House.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have not yet received a copy of the resolutions. Till then I cannot say whether they contain anything of importance beyond what has already appeared in the Press.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): Has the right hon. Gentleman received any resolutions from Alexandria and Cairo against these resolutions?

SIR. EDWARD GREY: I cannot say.

SIR H. COTTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman apply for a copy of the resolutions?

SIR. EDWARD GREY: From what I have seen of them in the Press they do not appear to be practical.

Lunacy in Eygpt.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, it having been alleged in the Report of the director general of the Egyptian lunatic asylum for 1905 that many dangerous lunatics had to be discharged uncured owing to insufficiency of accommodation, he will state how far that condition of things has since been remedied; and how far the suggestions of the Report as to situation and space have been acted upon.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a lunacy law, as promised in Lord Cromer's Annual Report for 1903, has been introduced in Egypt; if so, what was the date of its promulgation; is it applicable alike to Europeans and Natives; and, if no such law exists, by what legal authority are lunatics and other persons mentally afflicted, and found at large, arrested and retained under control.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I venture to refer the hon. Member to Lord Cromer's Report for 1906 which will deal with the question.

Lunatic Asylums in Eygpt.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there is still only one lunatic asylum for the whole of Upper and Lower Egypt; what is the number of beds; what is the number of Europeans and Natives respectively mentally afflicted who have been annually placed under control during the last five years; and what proportion do those figures bear to the total number of persons of unsound mind throughout the country.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Lord Cromer's Report for 1906, which will shortly be published, contains full information on the first two points raised by the hon. Member. I am not in possession of any statistics enabling me to deal with the last two points raised.

Hague Conference.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is he yet able to give to the House the name of the delegate or delegates who will represent this country at the forthcoming Conference at The Hague.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am not at present in a position to announce the names of the delegates who may be appointed.

Commercial Attachés.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the reason why, according to this year's Estimates, Diplomatic and Consular Services (Class 5, page 430), the Commercial Attachés previously stationed at Vienna, Berlin, and Madrid are in future to be stationed in London; for what reason a new item of £1,000 has been introduced into the same Estimates for allowance to secretaries for commercial work; and in what proportions and to which embassies is this sum to be allocated.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The new arrangements with regard to Commercial

Attachés were drawn up in consultation with the Board of Trade. The practice of stationing Commercial Attachés abroad was found to be not altogether satisfactory and it is hoped that under the new scheme greater assistance will be rendered to British trade and commerce. Allowances will be granted to secretaries in the Diplomatic Service in order to secure systematic and continuous attention to current commercial work on the part of a particular member of the staff. These allowances will at present be assigned as follows:—Berlin, £100; Washington, £100; Rome, £100; St. Petersburgh, £100; Vienna, £100; Madrid, £100; Brussels, £100; Lisbon, £50; Rio, £50; Buenos Aires, £50; Cairo, £50; Tehran, £50; The Hague, £25; Athens, £25.

Cost of Collecting Commercial Intelligence.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the reason for the reduction in this year's Estimates, Diplomatic and Consular Services, (Class 5, page 431) of the allowance for the collection of commercial intelligence from £1,000 to £700.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The provision under the sub-head for special services represents the cost of the Commercial Agents who were appointed experimentally—£700 is still provided for a Commercial Agent in the United States. The other temporary Agencies have been abolished. The Agent in Russia has been made a Commercial Attaché; the Agent in Switzerland now receives salary as a Vice-Consul; and an additional sum of £1,000 is included under Sub-head A for commercial work at Diplomatic Missions abroad. There is no decrease of the expenditure on commercial work, but a net increase of about £2,000.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: But the Estimates show a decrease.

SIR EDWARD GREY: More is allowed under other heads. There is a net increase.

German and American Trade Arrangements.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that any arrangement between Germany and the United States shall not operate adversely to British trade.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Should any arrangement be come to between the United States and Germany affecting British trade, His Majesty's Government will, of course, enter into such communication with the United States Government as may be required.

New Servian Treaty.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the new Servian Treaty binds the Colonies to grant to the products of Servia the same tariff rates which they may grant to any other foreign country; and if so, whether the views of the self-governing Colonies have been obtained on this question.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Treaty in no way binds British Colonies or Possessions in the sense indicated by the hon. Member. They are free to adhere to the Treaty or not. There has consequently been no occasion to consult the self-governing Colonies in the matter.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Article 13 of the new Servian Treaty means that Servia has agreed to grant the same terms to the products of any British Colony as are granted to the United Kingdom, irrespective of any inter-Imperial arrangement of tariffs which are now or may be hereafter in force.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Under Article 13 of the Treaty, Servia will grant most-favoured-nation treatment to the products of any British Colony or possession so long as that Colony or possession treats Servian goods as favourably as those of any foreign country. The Treaty therefore in no way interferes with an inter-Imperial arrangement of tariffs.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: Does this Servian Treaty rest on the assumption that the preferential treatment of British goods by British Colonies is in accordance with the obligations of the most-favoured-nation clause?

Sir EDWARD GREY: The Treaty does not interfere with any inter-Imperial or inter-Colonial arrangements. It leaves all parts of the British Empire free to make what arrangements they please between themselves.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the provision of Article 13 of the new Servian Treaty, requiring Servia to extend most-favoured-nation treatment to the products of all parts of the British Empire, whether such part adheres to the Treaty or not, has been included in any other treaty with the United Kingdom.

Sir EDWARD GREY: A similar provision is included in the Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Roumania, signed 31st October, 1905, and in the Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria, signed 9th December, 1905. The latter Convention has not yet been ratified, but it is expected that the ratifications will be exchanged in the course of a few days.

British Vice-Consul at Antwerp.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when Mr. Neville Kearney was appointed Vice-Consul at Antwerp; what was his age when appointed; whether he had passed any examinations, and what qualifications he had for the post; and how many men are employed on the staff of the Consul-General in Antwerp, giving their names, ages, and length of service.

Sir EDWARD GREY: Mr. Kearney, who has been a clerk in the Consulate-General at Antwerp since August, 1903, was given the rank of Vice-Consul on the 9th instant on the recommendation of the Consul-General, so as to enable him to sign ships' papers and other official documents. He and one other Vice-Consul, Mr. Robert Cox, are paid out of the allowance for Office Expenses. Mr. W. Lydcotte, who also has the rank of Vice-Consul at Antwerp, receives an allowance of £200. His appointment dates from 1st April, 1891, and that of Mr. Cox from 18th January of that year. These gentlemen are not called upon to pass an examination, as they are not members of the salaried consular service nominated by the Secretary of State, but form part of the staff selected by the Consul-General. None of these gentlemen will be qualified for pensions.

Turkish Import Duties and the Baghdad Railway.

Mr. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the acceptance by the Porte and the Powers of the conditions proposed by His Majesty's Government as to the Turkish Customs duties, and the consequent acceptance of the extra 3 per cent. duty on imports into Turkey, will forward the construction of the Baghdad Railway.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The proceeds of the additional Customs duties of 3 per cent. would be devoted to the requirements of the Macedonian Budget and would not, therefore, be available for any other purpose. To what purposes the financial requirements of the Turkish Empire will allow any of the rest of the Turkish revenue to be devoted must remain a matter of opinion or conjecture.

Mr. BOWLES asked whether there was anything in the conditions imposed by His Majesty's Government which would prevent the allocation of the sum set free by the imposition of these duties to the purpose he had mentioned.

Sir EDWARD GREY: It is a question as to what sum would be set free. The deficit of the Macedonian Budget, so far, has not been met out of revenue.

Macedonian Reforms.

Mr. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is contemplated that the formulating of reforms in Macedonia shall continue to rest with the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments after the proceeds of the proposed new Customs duties, leviable mainly upon British goods, have been applied to the financing of such reforms.

Sir EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government understand that any projects for reforms which may be formulated by the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments will be submitted to all the Powers concerned, and considered by them all. The initiative is, therefore, not so important as that the reforms should be formulated upon a principle which is acceptable to all the Powers, and this I trust is secured.

MR. LYNCH asked whether the initiative was not a matter of great importance, considering that the whole judicial reform of Macedonia rested at present with the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments.

SIR EDWARD GREY said he did not say the initiative was of no importance, but what was more important was that when that initiative was taken the reforms should be upon principles which were acceptable. The question of who took the initiative was then much more a matter of form than of substance.

The Jamaican Incident.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if it is in accordance with International law and International etiquette for the admiral of a foreign ship to land an armed force in a British Colony without the permission of the Governor of that colony.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer is in the negative. And I may add that in the incident to which the right hon. Gentleman has previously referred no such right was ever claimed.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS asked whether the right, or supposed right, was not exercised.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I said the right was not claimed, and you cannot say that a right that has not been claimed has been exercised. What I am convinced of is this, that there was naturally in the presence of such a catastrophe a certain amount of misunderstanding. The action of the American admiral was inspired by a single-minded motive of humanity and a desire to relieve suffering, and any other construction placed upon his action was both unworthy and untrue.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: May I ask whether the fact remains that, in opposition to the Governor of a British Colony, these armed forces were landed, and that there was no disorder that would warrant any such action?

SIR EDWARD GREY: No, Sir. According to my information, the Question of the right hon. Gentleman conveys a statement of facts which is not borne out by the true accounts of the occurrence.

Old-Age Pensions.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, when he is considering the question of his ability to allow an Exchequer contribution towards granting pensions to the aged deserving poor, he will take into consideration the suggestion that such contribution shall, as a tentative measure, in the first instance be of a limited amount to be met by an equal or larger sum from local sources.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): The suggestion will be duly considered.

Income Tax.

MR. C. E. PRICE: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of income tax due for the year ending 31st March, 1906, was unpaid at that date in England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively; and what percentage of costs had been charged to the taxpayers in each of these countries for non-payment to the same date.

MR. ASQUITH: The information asked for is not available, and could only be obtained, and that with difficulty and great labour, by calling for returns from the many thousand collectors by whom the tax is gathered in. An approximate statement could be given of the payments to the Exchequer up to 31st March, 1906, in respect of tax for the year to 5th April, 1906, as collected in England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively. But this would represent collection only up to about 20th March on an average, and would be very imperfect in certain respects, and misleading in others. The exact amount of tax due for a year to 5th April (not 21st March) is not ascertained until all appeals for the year have been determined; the interval between "collection" and "payment to the Exchequer" varies greatly from a few days to three weeks, according to circumstances; and the amount not "due" until after 31st March is very much greater in England than in Scotland or Ireland (*e.g.*, the tax on the April dividends on consols).

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman procure such figures as will satisfy us that the taxpayers in England are treated equally with the Scottish? The impression is that the Scottish taxpayer is dealt with unfairly.

MR. ASQUITH: I am doing my very best to bring England up to the Scottish standard.

*MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): Why not adopt the Scottish system of collection in England by employing the officers of Inland Revenue?

MR. ASQUITH: That is one of the points under consideration.

Naval Votes Deficits.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, upon what Parliamentary authority the Treasury acted when, in their communication to the Admiralty of the 31st December last, they assumed to authorise that Department to defray the deficits on certain Naval Votes out of moneys partly derived from surplus receipts beyond the sums appropriated in aid.

MR. ASQUITH: Following the uniform practice of many years, the authority cited was that of the Appropriation Acts. The question whether the application of Navy (or Army) Appropriations in Aid can be varied like that of Supply Grants is one which is now before the Public Accounts Committee, who will no doubt express their opinion in due course. I may remind the hon. Member that any action which the Treasury can take under the Appropriation Acts is temporary only, requiring Parliamentary ratification; and that the Treasury has no power to authorise even temporarily any expenditure which might cause an excess upon the aggregate sums appropriated by Parliament for Navy (or Army) services.

MR. BOWLES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Comptroller and Auditor-General has reported that in his opinion the Treasury had no Parliamentary sanction whatever for its action, and had been guilty of the usurpation of a power belonging alone to this House? Under these circumstances will the right hon. Gentleman see that this £120,000 is surrendered to the Exchequer?

MR. ASQUITH: I understand that the question is before the Public Accounts Committee now.

National Physical Laboratory.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Committee inquiring into the National Physical Laboratory is likely to issue its Report.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): I learn that the Committee is engaged in taking evidence, but I am not able at the present time to say when it will find itself in a position to issue its Report.

Licensing Legislation.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the statements made by the chairmen of numerous benches at the recent annual licensing meetings in Yorkshire on the subject of clubs; whether he is aware that the justices have referred in strong terms to the urgent need for further legislation in regard to clubs where intoxicants are supplied; whether the general purport of the opinions expressed by the justices is that any new enactment which might be made by Parliament on the licensing question would be futile in promoting temperance if it did not provide for the further regulation and supervision of clubs, in order to guard against abuses of the club system; and whether, having regard to these circumstances, he is now in a position to make a further statement as to the question of further legislation in regard to clubs.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I am aware that the first three paragraphs of the Question substantially represent the views generally held by Benches of licensing magistrates throughout the country. As regards the last paragraph, I am not in a position to make any statement at the present time.

Mr. LANE-FOX: Have not statements been made on behalf of the Government dealing with other important questions touching licensing, and cannot I have a more satisfactory answer from the right hon. Gentleman?

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have said the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. LANE-FOX: Do the Government intend to deal with it?

Mr. GLADSTONE: Yes, that is what I wished to convey.

Charitable Institutions and the Truck Acts.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the system adopted, in contravention of the Truck Acts, in Church Army homes and other institutions in West London, of paying wages in kind, by way of supplying food, and also by deductions for sleeping accommodation; whether such places are supervised by factory inspectors; and, if so, what steps, if any, have been taken to bring these factories into conformity with the law.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I am aware of the system to which the hon. Member calls attention. As I stated in reply to a similar Question last year, I am advised that it is by no means clear that the Truck Acts would apply to the case of persons seeking aid from charitable institutions, and the extension of the Act to cover such cases would involve considerable difficulties. I understand the point has been brought to the notice of the Committee on the Truck Acts which is now sitting, and it will no doubt receive their consideration.

Metropolitan Police Day of Rest.

*Mr. REES: On behalf of the hon. Member for St. Pancras, E., I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in view of the fact that he cannot see his way to giving the Metropolitan Police one day's rest in seven, in common with all other Government servants, on the ground that it would cost an extra £150,000 per annum, he will extend their annual holiday from ten days to fourteen days.

Mr. GLADSTONE: The cost even of this extension of holiday would be considerable, and I doubt if there are sufficient funds available to allow of my granting it, but I will consider the point in connection with the Estimates for the next financial year.

Dangerous Performances.

*Mr. REES: On behalf of the hon. Member for St. Pancras, E., I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in view of his Answer on the 19th March last,† he has yet considered whether it is desirable to extend the provisions of the Dangerous Performances Acts, 1879 and 1897, to dangerous performances by women of any age; and, if so, can he make any statement as to the introduction of legislation on the subject.

Mr. GLADSTONE: A Bill was introduced by the Government last year with this purpose, but did not succeed in passing. I see no prospect of legislation on the subject this session.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): On behalf of the hon. Member for Glamorganshire, S., I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consider the advisability of issuing rules showing whether compensation claims should be settled after July, 1907, the date the amended Workmen's Compensation Act comes into operation, upon the basis of the amended Compensation Act or the old Compensation Act, in cases in which the injuries or accident happened upon a date prior to the new law becoming operative.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have no power to make rules on this subject, and the state of the law is quite clear. All cases where the accident happens after 1st July, 1907, will be under the new Act. All cases where the accident happened before

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 76.

1st July, 1907, will be under the old Acts, except with respect to references to medical referees, as to which the new provisions will apply.

Defence of Prisoners.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of a young man of the name of Quarterman, of Chinnor, in Oxfordshire, who was recently sentenced to one month's imprisonment by the petty sessions at Watlington, without having had the advantage of any legal defence; whether he is aware that the police failed to comply with the regulations of the Home Office by not asking him if he wished to be defended, although they knew that a short time before, when tried for the same offence, he had been so defended; and whether full inquiry will be made into all the circumstances of this case.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have already made inquiry into the case, and in view of all the circumstances I have felt justified in advising a remission of the sentence; but the grounds on which I have done so do not in any way reflect on the police officer concerned in the case. Defendant appears to have had full opportunity of obtaining legal advice for his defence if he had wished to do so. I know of no rule requiring the police to ask defendants whether they wish to be defended. The police have instructions to give prisoners who wish to be defended every facility for communicating with their legal advisers.

Disinfectants.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the prevalence of the sale of disinfectants which do not disinfect, he proposes to take any steps towards the standardisation of disinfectants.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I am not empowered to fix standards of disinfectants, and it does not at present appear to me that I could usefully take action in the matter.

German Farm Colony at Ware.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the Report of the German farm colony at Ware, Herts, in which it is stated that during 1901–6 out of 2,875 destitute but able-bodied German-speaking men who were admitted into the colony, 1,057 had earned sufficient during their stay to defray all expenses connected with their return home, 1,027 secured situations or received monetary assistance from abroad and were thus enabled to earn their own living, and only 709 left the colony to continue a life more or less dependent upon begging and vagrancy; and whether this farm colony is recognised financially or otherwise by his Department.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have seen a statement issued by the council of this farm colony containing the particulars mentioned in the Question. The colony is established for the benefit of German-speaking persons who are out of employment and is supported by voluntary contributions. There does not appear to have been any occasion for the recognition of it by the Local Government Board.

Unemployed Workmen Act.

MR. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, having regard to the near expiration of the time during which assistance may be given to distress committees from the grant of £200,000, and the amount of unemployment still existent, it is the intention of the Government to make a further grant for next year; and whether he can state when the Bill to amend the Unemployed Workmen Act, promised in the King's Speech of last year, will be introduced.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am not at present in a position to make any statement as to a grant in the next financial year. For reasons I have previously explained, I do not contemplate proposing legislation to amend the Act.

Registers of Pauper Illegitimates.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will cause registers to be kept by the medical officers of all workhouses and infirmaries of feeble-minded females who are delivered therein of illegitimate children; and whether he will lay upon the Table, or otherwise publish, an annual summary of such registers.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I will take note of the suggestion of my hon. friend, but I think it will be desirable to defer any action in the matter pending the Report of the Royal Commission on the Feeble-minded. I understand that the Commissioners are now engaged on their Report.

Whisky.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what steps have been taken by his Department to appoint a Committee to inquire into and settle the question of what is whisky, having in view the postponement of the appeal against Mr. Fordham's decision.

MR. JOHN BURNS: It appeared to me to be desirable that before I determined to take action of the kind referred to in the Question, the decision of the Court of quarter sessions on a re-hearing of the appeal should be given, and I expressed an opinion to this effect. Further representations have, however, recently been made to me on the subject, and these are now receiving my consideration. I may add that any Committee appointed by me could only inquire into the matter. They would have no power to settle it.

Insanitation in Somers Town.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has yet received a Report from the medical officer of health for the borough of St. Pancras on the insanitary conditions of Little Clarendon Street, Somers Town, which Report he stated, on the 12th March, 1906, that he had called for; also, what action, if any, has been taken by the borough council to deal with this insanitary property under the Housing of Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1903; and, if no action has been taken, either by the borough council referred to or the Local Government Board, will he explain the cause of the delay.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have received the Report referred to. It shows that the houses in question are in fair structural condition, and that no fault is to be found with the supply of light and air. Overcrowding, however, exists in the street, and a large number of notices for its abatement are served from time to time. The case appears to be one for action under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, rather than under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, and I gather that the borough council are exercising their powers under the former Act.

Unemployed Grant.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what portion of the grant of £200,000 for the unemployed has been given to Wales, and in what counties such portion has been expended.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The object of the grant was to supplement the voluntary contributions account of distress committees where there appeared to be exceptional need for assistance in the winter in meeting the cost of providing or contributing to the provision of necessary work. I am happy to say that no such need appeared to exist in the districts in Wales for which distress committees have been appointed, and that no application has been made by these committees for payments out of the grant. Consequently no such payments have been made.

Wages Inquiry.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the inquiry now being made as to wages paid in certain occupations will include particulars of employment in mines and quarries, and also on railways and tramway services; and when the information is likely to be presented to the House.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): Yes. The inquiry will extend to the industries named by my hon. friend. The results will be published in sections from time to time, but it is impossible to say when the information will be complete.

MR. J. WARD: Will it include railway and tram servants on systems in course of construction?

MR. KEARLEY: I will inquire.

Railway Clerks' Hours.

Mr. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, seeing railway clerks are being worked excessive hours, amounting in some cases to sixteen hours per day, especially in Ireland, he will consider the advisability of extending the Hours Act so as to include these men.

Mr. KEARLEY: The power of regulating the hours of labour of certain classes of railway servants conferred by the Act of 1893 was mainly based on the interests of public safety. The Board of Trade are not at present prepared to propose the extension of the Act to classes of employees like clerks who cannot be distinguished from employees of private firms whose hours are unregulated by law.

Patent Laws.

Mr. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he proposes to introduce the Patent Law Amendment Bill before Easter.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade when he proposes to introduce a Bill to amend the patent laws and to protect British industry from the foreign competition which prevails under the existing system of patent law in this country.

Mr. KEARLEY: My right hon. friend hopes to introduce this Bill at the earliest possible opportunity.

Training for the Merchant Service.

Mr. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has had brought under his notice schemes for providing the training, considered necessary by the promoters, of officers and men for the merchant service; and whether, in view of the commercial and Imperial advantages to be gained by the increase in the number of adequately trained officers and seamen, he will consider the advisability of assisting, by means of public funds, such scheme or schemes as may be approved by the Board of Trade.

Mr. KEARLEY: The whole subject is now under the consideration of a Board of Trade Committee of which I am chairman, and which has been appointed to report upon the most practicable scheme for the supply and training of boy seamen of British nationality for the mercantile marine.

Railway Companies' Election Expenditure.

Mr. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that there is no heading in the published accounts of the London and North Western Railway under which the item appears of a subscription of £200 to the London Municipal Society; and whether he will use the powers and influence of his Department to enforce a full publication of all accounts so as to prevent the possibility of the concealment by the directors of such expenditure.

Mr. KEARLEY: I notice that in the railway company's accounts their subscription is not entered separately; whether it should have been so shown would seem to be a matter for the auditors to whom the accounts were submitted. The question of alterations in the form of the accounts to be rendered by railway companies is at the present moment under the consideration of a Departmental Committee.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): Will this money be paid out of dividends or capital account?

Mr. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): May I ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that large sums of money were pooled by other companies and expended for the purpose of the recent County Council election in order to avoid the connection of agency as between those spending the money and the respective candidates, and whether, in consequence of such action, he does not contemplate legislation to tighten up the Corrupt Practices Act?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not aware of any such act as my hon. friend refers to, but I quite agree that the Corrupt Practices Act wants some renewal and revision.

Bristol Trams and Miners.

MR. HOWELL DAVIES (Bristol, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the refusal of the Bristol Tramways Company to allow miners to ride inside workmen's cars; also if he is aware that the Bristol Trades Council has had the matter before them and have unanimously expressed their desire that miners should be permitted to travel in like comfort with their fellow workers; and whether he can take any action to meet this case.

MR. KEARLEY: Yes, Sir, the Board of Trade have communicated the views of the trades council to the tramways company, and requested the company to consider whether, in the circumstances, some amendment of their by-laws should not be made so far as workmen's cars are concerned.

Railway Servants—Hours of Labour Return.

MR. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that returns were obtained from all the railway companies for the hours worked by their men exceeding ten hours consecutive duty on any one day during the years 1891 and 1892; and whether he will order a Return to be made for all hours of duty above ten per day for January, 1907.

MR. KEARLEY: Returns of the nature described were obtained for the month of December, 1891. As regards the obtaining of further Returns on the same basis I would refer to the reply given to my hon. friend the Member for East Northamptonshire on the 22nd ultimo.† The whole question of the form and frequency of the Returns is now being carefully considered.

Aberdeen Postal Arrangements.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, in view of the promised consideration of the question of giving to the Woodside district of Aberdeen the advantages of a late postal delivery enjoyed by other parts of the city, if he can now state whether this benefit can be initiated on the revision of the postal delivery arrangements in Aberdeen which is to take place on the occupation of the new post office buildings.

I beg also to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the fact that no less than four applications from the public have been made for a post and telegraph office at Belmont Road, Killybrewster, Aberdeen; and, in view of the increase of business and population in that district since 1901, when the first application was made, if he can now see his way to comply with the application.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I will look into both the cases referred to by the hon. Member.

Radio-Telegraphic Convention.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the amount of preparatory work which will have to be done in order to bring the Radio-Telegraphic Convention into operation, and to the fact that the deliberations of the Parliamentary Committee must be prolonged, His Majesty's Government will definitely postpone Great Britain's adhesion to the Convention for a further period of twelve months or more.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The Radio-Telegraphic Convention does not come into force till 1st July, 1908, a date which allows ample time, after the Committee has reported, to make all necessary arrangements consequent on ratification.

Postal Addresses.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Hackney, I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the number of frauds perpetrated through the medium of the post by persons who pay for the use of addresses at which to receive letters; and whether he will consider the desirableness of formulating a regulation prohibiting the granting of the use for payment of postal addresses.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am aware of the practice to which the hon. Member refers. Its use is in most cases perfectly legitimate, but in some cases it may lend itself to the perpetration of frauds. I regret, however, that I have no legal power to intervene in such cases.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1146–7.

New Zealand Mail Service.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state what steps he is taking to re-establish the broken-down postal arrangements with New Zealand *via* San Francisco; what is the age of the American contract packet which has been withdrawn for repairs; is there no other steamer which can be substituted in such cases; and who is to blame for the policy of sending the mails by a route that takes thirty-nine days in place of one that takes thirty days.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am informed that the United States Post Office has the matter under consideration; but I am not myself in a position to furnish the hon. Member with the details for which he asks concerning a service in no way under my control. It has long been the practice to despatch mails for New Zealand *via* San Francisco by every opportunity, that is, in normal circumstances, once in three weeks. In the intervening weeks mails are despatched *via* Suez, because it is found in practice that they thereby reach their destination sooner than if retained for the next San Francisco despatch.

Canadian Postal Rates.

MR. W. PRIESTLEY (Bradford, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if negotiations are taking place with the Postmaster-General of Canada with the object of reducing the postal rates between Great Britain and Canada upon newspapers, magazines, and periodicals; and, if so, can he state the present position of the question.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: As my hon. friend is, I think, aware, negotiations are proceeding between the Imperial and Canadian Governments on the question of a reduction in the postage to Canada on newspapers, periodicals. and magazines from this country. I hope shortly to be able to make a statement on the subject, but cannot do so at present.

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): In view of the keen interest taken in this matter cannot the right hon. Gentleman lay some Papers on the Table of the House?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was fully aware of the great interest taken, but the negotiations were still going on.

Llanychan School.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he has received any application from the local education authority for Denbighshire for permission to cease maintaining the church school at Llanychan; and, if so, on what grounds the appplication has been made, and what steps the Board of Education intend to take in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The authority's application is made on the ground that the school is unnecessary; but, as it was only received yesterday, I cannot yet say what action the Board will take.

Teachers' Compensation.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what compensation will be paid to those teachers who may lose their employment in the event of schools being closed owing to the Special Religious Instruction Bill.

MR. McKENNA: On the hypothesis mentioned by the hon. Member the scholars in the closed schools will require instruction elsewhere, and I do not, therefore, anticipate any diminution in the demand for teachers.

Education (Special Instruction) Bill.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he is aware of the desire that the Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill shall be proceeded with without delay; and can he name an early date for its further consideration.

MR. McKENNA: I am very anxious to proceed with this measure and I hope it may be possible to take the Second Reading next Monday.

Education Grant Application Form.

MR. CARLILE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he will lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the draft form of application by local education authorities for their proportionate share of the £100,000 to be voted for the provision of new buildings in single school areas.

MR. McKENNA: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that each local authority will be entitled to a proportionate share in the grant referred to. I explained, in reply to the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division of Shropshire on Monday, the purpose and limitations of the grant.† No form of application has been drafted. I am not at present in a position to make any further statement on the subject.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): When does the right hon. Gentleman expect to tell the House something about this money, some of which was included in the Vote on account?

MR. McKENNA: When the Estimates are reached I will do so.

Educational Administration.

MR. CARLILE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what steps will be taken to secure, on the part of the two departments of the Board of Education, identity of administrative interpretation of the Education Acts.

MR. McKENNA: I do not understand what the hon. Member means by "identity of administrative interpretation." A statute, it appears to me, may be interpreted correctly or incorrectly, and I trust it will not be necessary to take any extraordinary steps to secure that the interpretation placed upon the Education Acts by all Departments of the Board will be a correct one.

Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs, and St. Barnabas Church, Tunbridge Wells —Illegal Practices alleged.

SIR D. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been drawn to a public service held on Sunday, 3rd March, 1907, at Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs, in the diocese of Canterbury, in the course of which the following illegal acts were committed, the wearing of one or more of the mass vestments, the use of portable lights, the ceremonial mixing of the chalice, the introduction of a ceremonial closely resembling the lavabo, the elevation of a consecrated wafer with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world," the introduction of secret prayers, and the secret reading of the Last Gospel, and at which there was no communicant except the celebrant; whether he is aware that among the ornaments of that church there are the the illegal ornaments known as the Stations of the Cross; whether his attention has also been drawn to a public service held on the same Sunday at St. Barnabas Church, Tunbridge Wells, in the diocese of Rochester, at which illegalities of a generally similar character were committed; and whether he can see his way to taking proceedings on behalf of the Crown against the incumbents of the above-mentioned churches.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): Yes, Sir, my attention has been drawn to the illegal practices referred to in this Question. The duty of enforcing compliance with ecclesiastical law rests upon the bishop of the diocese. I cannot discover any authority for the proposition that it is part of the office of the Attorney-General. If my hon. and learned friend, who is a most competent judge, considers there are grounds for an opposite opinion and will bring the case formally before the Director of Public Prosecutions, the subject will be fully considered.

Married Women's Property Bill.

MR. J. M. HENDERSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether it is the intention of the Government to reintroduce the Bill to amend The Married Women's Property Act, 1882, which was brought from the Lords on 4th April, 1905, as well as in the session of 1904, or some new measure to remedy the present position whereby, while a married women can convey her own property without the consent of her husband, she cannot convey property held by her in trust without her husband joining in such conveyance.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 1261.

SIR JOHN WALTON: Yes, Sir, I am informed that the Lord Chancellor proposes to introduce a Bill with this object in the other House during the present session.

Page's Estate.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been called to a categorical statement of the legal history of the Page's estate; whether he has inquired into the accuracy or otherwise of such statement, and the other evidence already in the possession of his Department; and what action, if any, he proposes to take to protect the interests of the Crown in this matter.

SIR JOHN WALTON: I have received a number of lengthy communications upon the subject referred to in this Question. It is impossible to form any final opinion on the matter until the accuracy of the statements contained in these documents has been established. The Treasury are, I believe, now conducting the necessary investigation and they will, no doubt, furnish the hon. Member with any information he may desire.

Beet Cultivation.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he will lay any Papers that may be available relating to the cultivation of sugar beet in the British Isles, in order that information may be available for experiments contemplated in the county of Montgomery.

*SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The Board have no Papers on this subject that could usefully be presented to Parliament, but we shall be glad to supply such information as we possess respecting it to any persons interested.

Agricultural Labour Employment Bureau.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if his Department has any list of employers seeking agricultural labourers, to whom young men, aged about twenty years, who seek to get employed on the land can apply.

*SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: No, Sir.

MR. FELL: Is there no possibility of such a bureau being established by the Board of Agriculture?

*SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: It is very improbable. The difficulty is not for such men to get employment, but for farmers to get young men in country districts.

Lord Egerton and his Tenants.

MR. MONTAGU (Cambridgeshire, Chesterton): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is in a position to make any statement as to the reasons which have led Lord Egerton of Tatton to serve notices to quit on his tenants in Cheshire in consequence of the passing of the Agricultural Holdings Act of last session.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: My noble friend has received the following letter on this subject from Lord Egerton.

"Helouan,
"Cairo,
"26th February, 1907.

"Dear Lord Carrington,

"I am glad of the opportunity (given me by your letter of February 15th which I have just received) of contradicting the assumption made by Mr. Fullerton in his Question on the Paper of the House of Commons.

"I had no intention in giving formal notice to my tenants (on February 2nd, the first legal day in the North of England) to defeat the measure intended for the benefit of tenant farmers.

"If I had intended to defeat a measure, which, speaking generally, carries out the long-established practice of my estate, I should not have written a circular to my tenants that it was necessary under the new Agricultural Holdings Act to cancel the existing agreement, which was out of date, 'and to substitute for it a simpler form "in harmony with recent legislation.'"

"My tenants know well that I am as anxious as ever to maintain the cordial relations which have long existed between us, and which will not in any way be affected by the recent Act.

"I shall be glad if you will give the same publicity to this letter as has been given to the question before the House of Commons.

"Believe me,
"Yours sincerely,
"(Signed) EGERTON OF TATTON."

Protection of Ancient Monuments.

MR. COURTHOPE: On behalf of the Junior Member for the City of London, I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works what are the principal items accounting for the estimated increase of £3,645, required during the next financial year for the maintenance and protection of ancient monuments in Great Britain.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The excess is mainly accounted for by necessary works of maintenance and repair at Carnarvon Castle and Stirling Castle, which we have recently taken over, and by the provision of lightning conductors on many buildings already in our charge. I hope the hon. Baronet will allow me to postpone the further details till I give them in the discussion of these Estimates shortly after Easter.

Insanitary Water Supply at Ardler.

MR. WILKIE (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the reports concerning the bad sanitary state of the water supply of the village of Ardler, in Perthshire; whether he is aware of a particular form of disease prevalent in the village, known as the Ardler scab, said to be due to the poisonous nature of the water supply; and whether he proposes to take any steps to compel the local landlord to have a proper supply procured in the interest of the villagers.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): My attention has been drawn to the unsatisfactory state of the water supply of the village of Ardler. The county medical officer reported that in the autumn of 1905 a number of the children in Ardler and other parts of the county suffered from "broken-out faces," but that there was no reason to connect these with the water supply. The Local Government Board are in communication with the local authority with a view to an improved supply.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Did these "broken-out faces" come before or after vaccination?

[No Answer was returned.]

Moray Firth.

CAPTAIN WARING (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland what steps, if any, are being taken at the present time to prevent illegal trawling in the Moray Firth.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Fishery Board for Scotland has instructions to watch for and report all cases of illegal trawling in the Moray Firth and is doing so to the full extent of its resources.

Scottish Churches Dispute.

MR. FINDLAY (Lanarkshire, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the dissatisfaction existing in Ayr and Campbeltown, over the delay in coming to a decision in connection with the United Free Churches there, where large congregations have been long evicted by small minorities unable to carry on the work of these churches, he can say the cause of the delay, and if a settlement may be expected soon.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am aware of the inconvenience caused by the existing circumstances in this and other cases. As to the reasons why a final settlement of outstanding cases has not yet been reached, I have nothing to add to the contents of the reply to my hon. friend the Member for Clackmannan and Kinross which was furnished by the Chairman of the Commission on 26th February.†

Right-of-Way Case Dunkeld.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the expenses in the recent Dunkeld right-of-way case amounted to no less a sum than £2,400, all of which fall upon the single individual who was personally responsible for the action; and what steps he proposes to take to amend the law so as to place this public duty on a public authority and to diminish the cost of these actions.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1443-4.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am unable to add to the Answer I gave on the 5th instant to the hon. Member for Leicester in reply to a Question on the same case.† The Government have every sympathy with the desire to preserve and vindicate existing rights-of-way, but I cannot at present give any undertaking as to legislation.

Moray Firth—Fishery Protection.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether there are now any trawl vessels working in the Moray Firth; whether any have been detected since 2nd March; and whether the Fishery Board (Scotland) have adequate means at their command to discover and detect such trawling.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have received information that the Commander of the fishery cruiser "Freya" reported on the 7th instant that he had observed six trawlers at work between Helmsdale and Buckie during the past two days. I hope to receive to-morrow further information as to the period since 7th instant.

MR. MORTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the latter part of my question.

MR. SINCLAIR: That is a matter of opinion.

Finn v. Campbell.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of Finn *v.* Campbell, and the judgment of the Court of King's Bench, Dublin, upholding the decision of the police magistrate to the effect that the 13th section of the Act of 1871 was not repealed by the General Dealers' Act, 1903; and, whether, in view of the fact that it was generally considered that this section was repealed, and of the hardship to dealers by the Law as now laid down, he will consider the advisability of bringing in a short Bill to remove this hardship.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool Exchange): I am informed that the decision of the King's Bench Division was as stated in the Question. The conviction referred to was under the 13th section of the Prevention of Crimes Act, 1871, which is a general Act applying to the whole United Kingdom, and not to Ireland alone. Any alteration in it, applicable to Ireland only, would not, I think, be advisable.

Irish Land Purchase Delays.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is the practice of the Board of Works in Ireland to refuse to advance money for hay barns, etc., to tenants who have signed purchase agreements under the Land Act of 1903, until the sale is completed; and whether in view of the delay, extending over some years, between the agreement to purchase and the issue of the vesting order by the Land Commission, he will advise the Board of Works to abolish this practice.

MR. RUNCIMAN: If the hon. Member will refer to the reply given by my predecessor to a similar Question on the 28th March last,‡ he will find the practice of the Board of Works very clearly stated. Like my right hon. friend I do not think any change is called for.

Tuam and Limerick Postal Service.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that letters posted in Tuam, directed to Limerick, are sent to Dublin by the Midland line and thence by Great Southern and Western Railway to Limerick; that parcels posted at 6 p.m. at Ballyglunin on a Monday are not delivered in Limerick until Wednesday morning; that to letters posted at Ballyglunin at the same time and directed to firms in Dublin and Limerick a reply can be had from Dublin before the Limerick letters reach Limerick; and whether he can see his way to have this state of affairs remedied by running a night mail from Claremorris to Limerick, taking in the mails at intermediate stations.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 645.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cliv, 1244.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have called for a report on this subject, and on its receipt I will send the hon. Member a reply.

Statue of William III.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will recommend that the statue of William III., Prince of Orange, about to be presented by the German Emperor, be erected in Belfast, Lisburn, or Londonderry, where the memory of that king's services in the cause of civil and religious liberty in Ireland is treasured.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: My right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works has decided upon a site which is to be in front of Kensington Palace—in the neighbourhood of the Orangery.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: May I ask the Prime Minister whether he will represent to the First Commissioner of Works that it would be a compliment to the Orangemen of Ireland if he would have the statue placed in one of the towns I have mentioned?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not think the arrangement can be changed, and I cannot imagine a more suitable situation.

Case of Mr. Charles George Hunt.

MR. CARLILE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that a grant was made from the Royal bounty, special service, or compassionate funds, in the case of a previous clerk of the county court of Clerkenwell, who was in the position for a much shorter period, he will reconsider his decision that these funds are not applicable to the case of Mr. Charles George Hunt, of Danesbury, Warwick Road, New Barnet, who held the same position at the same court for a period of nearly 60 years, until 30th September, 1906, and who is now in failing health and in impoverished circumstances.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No such grant has been made by me, nor (so far as I am able to discover) by any of my predecessors in office; and I remain of opinion that there are no sufficient reasons for a grant of public money to Mr. Hunt.

MR. CARLILE: May I send the right hon. gentleman the particulars of a grant that was made?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot hold out any hope that any precedent will alter my opinion with regard to this case.

MR. CARLILE: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider that this gentleman is in failing health and very impoverished circumstances?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Butter Bill.

MR. COURTHOPE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister when the Butter and Margarine Bill will be proceeded with.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: On Monday.

Woman Suffrage.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to give facilities to the Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women introduced by the hon. Member for North St. Pancras.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think it would have been more usual if a Question of this kind had been asked by one of the promoters of the Bill, but I may say that under the circumstances in which this Bill is now before the House it is quite impossible and would be unprecedented to give further time for the Second Reading debate; and in addition to that the pressure of Government business would preclude us from offering facilities for any private Bill.

MR. CORBETT: It was owing to the lack of ardour on the part of the promoters that I put the Question.

Berks and Bucks Staghounds.

MR. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he is aware that on 2nd January last a deer, turned out to be hunted by the Berks and Bucks staghounds, in trying to clear a wall near

Bisham, after a long run, fell and broke its neck; that on 26th February last a deer turned out near Taplow by the same hunt, after a long run, took refuge in a cottage at Farnham Royal, and, having been captured by villagers with a rope, was strangled in its efforts to escape; that on 28th February last a deer turned out by the Surrey staghounds took refuge in a millpond at Ifield, where it was drowned; that on the same day a deer turned out by the Berks and Bucks hunt was captured, bleeding and in a state of exhaustion, by villagers, and was strangled in its efforts to escape; that on 8th March last a deer turned out by the same hunt, after a run of some fifteen miles, was driven into Waterloo Place Lake, near Wokingham, where it was set upon by the hounds and drowned; that at least six carted deer are known to have been killed by the Berks and Bucks hunt since 26th November last; and if, in view of the frequent occurrence of such incidents, and of the public feeling in the matter, and to prevent cruelty to animals, he will give facilities to enable the Spurious Sports Bill to be passed into law.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have already told my hon. friend my opinion of this kind of sport, and expressed my desire to find a means of putting a stop to it. But at this stage of the session it is, I am afraid, quite out of the question to offer facilities for the Spurious Sports Bill.

South Devon Fisheries.

Mr. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the state of affairs in connection with the fishing industry of Plymouth and South Devon, which has been brought about by the repeated depredations of foreign trawlers; and whether he will consent to the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the whole matter, as suggested by the Admiralty.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The whole matter is engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government. I cannot say more at present.

Mr. MILDMAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to expedite matters, as many fishermen are becoming a charge on the rates because of the refusal of owners to send their boats out while this state of affairs lasts.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am fully aware of the pressing nature of the matter.

Scottish Land Legislation.

Mr. MORTON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will consider the advisability of bringing in a separate Land Bill dealing with the extension of small holdings in the crofting districts of Scotland, as promised in His Majesty's Speech at the opening of Parliament last year.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Small Landowners Bill, which covers this subject, will be introduced next week.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): Will the Leader of the House say how he proposes to allocate the time up to Easter?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said it was proposed on Monday to introduce the Patents Bill under the ten minutes rule. They would then take the Ways and Means Report and the introduction of the Consolidated Fund Bill, if they did not obtain these that night, as he hoped. The next business would be the introduction of the Small Landowners (Scotland) Bill, the second reading of the Butter Bill, the Post Office Sites Bill, Probation of Offenders Bill, Released Prisoners Bill, and others. These, he thought, were mostly agreed measures. On Tuesday they would take the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. On Wednesday they would make certain proposals as to the alteration of the rules of procedure, and take the Committee on the Consolidated Fund Bill. On Thursday it was proposed to move the Speaker out of the Chair on Civil Service Estimates, and take the third reading on the Consolidated Fund Bill. The business in the following week would depend a little on circumstances, but he hoped that the Motion for the rising of the House for the Easter recess might be made on Wednesday, the 27th inst. He would propose that the House should reassemble on Monday, April 8th. [Cries of "Tuesday."]

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR pointed out that it had been customary to give a whole day to the discussion of the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, whereas only half a day would be available for Government business on Tuesday. That was, he thought, rather a violent change, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the matter. He believed it was also asking the House to exceed their practice to grant the third reading of that Bill and get the Speaker out of the Chair on Civil Service Estimates on the same day.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the pressure next week arose from the fact that they must get the third reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill by Thursday next.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he was surprised at that, as he would have thought that Monday week would be soon enough. If the Ways and Means Report were passed that night, could not the right hon. Gentleman give a whole day to the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he did not wish to make any tyrannical use of the power of the Government, and he would consider the point. But they must get the Third Reading of the Bill by Thursday next, as the Royal Assent could not be obtained quite so easily just now, for reasons of which they were all aware.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): Why is it necessary to get the Third Reading next Thursday?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There are reasons we all know of in connection with getting the Royal Assent.

Mr. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E. R., Holderness) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would inform the House during the next fortnight what he was going to do with the House of Lords.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said it did not rest with him to do anything with the House of Lords. He did not know that the actual course to be taken by the Government would be announced before Easter, but it was pretty well known what that course would be.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON asked when the Government proposed to take the Second Reading of the Special Religious Instruction Bill.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said it would be taken before Easter if the other Bills he had mentioned were disposed of in time.

THE STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR called attention to an apparent discrepancy in the Standing Order by which it was intended to provide that not more than one day should be allotted to the Vote on account or to the Report of that Vote.

***Mr. SPEAKER** said that possibly there might be a little confusion in consequence of the words "sitting" and "day" being used in the same Standing Order, both, in his judgment, being now equivalents. In the last Parliament there were two sittings *per diem*; now there was only one. Therefore, to take a concrete case, if, yesterday, the Report of Supply had not come to an end at 8.15, when a private Member's Motion was taken, it would have been his duty at eleven o'clock, when the order was again called, to put the Question.

NEW BILLS.

CROFTERS' (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts, and to consolidate the Crofters Commission with the Congested Districts Commissioners in Scotland," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Sir Edward Tennant; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 105.]

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

"To regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and to provide for their registration," presented by Mr. Munro

Ferguson; supported by Sir John Dickson-Poynder, Mr. Rose, Mr. Rainy, Mr. Eve, Mr. Fell, Mr. Crooks, Sir George Robertson, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Jowett, and Mr. McKillop; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 106].

SUPPLY [7TH MARCH] REPORT.

[4TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Resolution reported;

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1907-8.

1. "That 128,000 Officers, Seamen, and Boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Service for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908, including 18,595 Royal Marines."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,869,700, be granted to His Majesty to defray the Expenses of Wages, &c., to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

First Resolution read a second time.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said that it would be remembered that when these two Votes were in Committee there were certain questions addressed to the Secretary for the Admiralty which at the time he was unable to answer. The right hon. Gentleman said, in replying to the Leader of the Opposition, who addressed the particular questions to him, that he could not be expected to give full answers to all questions without due notice. The right hon. Gentleman, however, said that if he failed to give satisfactory answers to the questions at the time he would supplement them at a later date. He hoped that as the later day had arrived the right hon. Gentleman would be in a position to give the answers he had promised. For example, several questions had been put about the Home Fleet, but before calling attention again to those very important questions he wished to assure the right hon. Gentleman that he had no desire to criticise the Board of Admiralty adversely in this matter. He did not think that anyone who had had the privilege of serving on that Board would wish to do otherwise than support it generally when continuity of policy was being maintained. But he was sure that the right hon. Gentleman would wish them to give it intelligent support, and they were only anxious for certain definite information. He did not wish to ask for any information which could be classed as confidential, but there were certain points which he ventured to think it would be in the interests of the Admiralty to clear up as well as in the interests of the country generally. There was one question which the right hon. Gentleman had not yet answered, with regard to the proposal to draft the newest and best ships, he meant ships of the "Dreadnought" and later classes, to the Home Fleet as soon as completed, rather than to draft them to the first fighting line — in other words to place those newest and best ships in the second line or reserve. He was well aware that it had been proposed to maintain the Nore Division, which had been described as the "fighting tip" of the Home Fleet, in the same state of efficiency as the sea-going fleets, and if that was intended he would not be inclined to press the point, because it would then perhaps come under the head of mere strategic distribution of the ships which were available; and that, of course, must be left to the discretion of the Board of Admiralty. But it had been said in the course of the debates that the Nore Division was not intended to be as efficient as the sea-going fleets, and it had been admitted that it would have only 70 per cent. of their sea time. And a very important question, as he thought, was put by the Leader of the Opposition, when he asked whether the ships of the Nore Division would cost as much per annum as the corresponding ships of the sea-going fleets, with the exception of the expenditure on coal. They knew that they were only to have 70 per cent. as much sea time. The question, therefore, arose whether the economy to be effected on the one item of coal was sufficient to compensate for the loss of efficiency of those ships as compared with those of sea-going fleets. He would like to put this further question—as he could not possibly see that the economy in money was intended to be for coal only—whether it was intended that there should be economy in the matter of ammunition also. Then he would like to put a question with reference to the ships of the Fifth Cruiser Squadron, which consisted of six first-class cruisers, and would be attached to the Nore Division. If hon. Gentlemen looked at the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty for the present year they would see that those six cruisers, like the six battleships of the Nore Division, were especially referred to as belonging to the Home Fleet, and the statement was added that they would not leave home waters. That was of course to give the public confidence in the constant presence of the Home Fleet. A little further down, however, it stated that the Nore cruisers would exercise with the Channel and other Fleets, as was thought desirable. If that was so, they could not always be kept in home waters and also be detached to operate with the Channel Fleet and other fleets, which, as they knew, were frequently absent from home waters. Of course, if the right hon. Gentleman made it clear that the Fifth Cruiser Squadron would never operate with the Channel or other Fleets when absent from home waters, then he thought the provision became of very little use at all, because the operations of the Channel and Atlantic Fleets caused them to be generally absent from home waters. When operating together the other day they were three days steam from home waters, and there was not a single battleship at home. If they operated with the Channel Fleet, what became of the responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet when his cruisers were taken away from him to operate under another commander-in-chief?

*MR. SPEAKER: The Vote under discussion is as to the number of men, and the distribution of the fleet does not arise on this Vote. The hon. Member is at liberty to discuss the number of men.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said he desired to know exactly the effect of the ruling. When the Chairman of Committees was in the Chair, it was understood that the question of general policy could be raised on Vote A or Vote 1, but not on both. He himself had understood, broadly speaking, that to be the rule. He would ask whether a similar rule did not apply on Report, or what were the precise limitations under which they were to guide the course of the discussion.

*MR. SPEAKER: The rule in Committee is not applicable on Report. In Committee on Vote A or Vote 1, possibly by arrangement on both, a general discussion may take place on the Navy Estimates. But on Report the discussion must be limited to the number of officers and men on Vote A, and, on Report of the Second Vote, to the expenses and wages of officers and seamen and boys. Hon. Members can make observations on those subjects.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I understand your ruling, Sir. There is this inconvenience resulting, that the promised answers of the right hon. Gentleman cannot now be given.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON Dundee) said no answer was promised on Report. He had said that at some later day he would endeavour to answer the questions, if he could not answer them on that day; but he had not said that he would answer them on Report, because he knew quite well that they could not be answered on Report, except so far as they were relevant to Votes A and 1.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE said that in view of Mr. Speaker's ruling, it was impossible that they could expect the answers which the right hon. Gentleman had promised at a later day, and it was quite obvious that the later day could never arrive. Therefore, the right hon. Gentleman had secured for himself immunity from answering questions as he had promised. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he could not be expected to give full answers to questions without notice, obviously showing that he recognised that he had to give full Answers. It would be in the recollection of the House that as a matter of fact on that occasion he did not answer the questions put to him by his right hon. friend. In view of the ruling they were reduced to the extremely narrow question of the reduction of Vote A by 1,000 men. He had no observations whatever to offer on that subject, and he would imagine it to be extremely difficult for any debate to be conducted on that extremely narrow point.

*MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis) said that, in view of Mr. Speaker's ruling restricting the discussion to the number of men, he begged only to call attention to the large number of collisions and groundings as the result of the employment of officers being so restricted in consequence of the redistribution of the fleets. The Secretary to the Admiralty some time ago, in answer to a Question of his, stated that in 1902 only 17 per cent. of the commanders were in command of sea-going ships. After the lapse of five years, and before the new redistribution scheme came into operation, he found that there were only 10 per cent. of commanders in command of sea-going ships, or the very large reduction in five years of 7 per cent. Turning to the captains' list, the official answer told him that in 1902, 44·4 per cent. of captains were in command of sea-going ships. That 44·4 per cent. had been reduced in five years only to 32·5 per cent. Those were ships that were exercising in sea-going fleets; he did not refer to nucleus crew ships, which went to sea for the day, and the bringing in of nucleus crew ships only confused the issue. Taking the case of the Portsmouth Division of battleships, it only went to sea one night in the whole of last year; the Chatham Division only went to sea by day. During the grand manœuvres the Chatham Division went to Portsmouth by daylight, and remained at anchor in the Solent the whole of the time of the manœuvres, and then proceeded back to Chatham. On the way two ships rammed each other. The "Resolution" ran into the "Ramillies" and the "Ramillies" ran into dock. For two years the average of collisions and groundings of men-of-war had been three a fortnight, or seventy-eight in one year, and the effect of the number of officers for the command of ships being so few would be that they would get more collisions and groundings. He did not wish to enlarge upon the training scheme, because he hoped that the Prime Minister would grant an inquiry into the whole subject. The feeling of dissatisfaction in the Navy was becoming very intense. The Marines believed that they were to be abolished under that scheme of service. He did not know of a single officer in command of the fleets, except the two officers in command of the Mediterranean Fleet, who was in favour of the scheme. All the admirals were against it, and yet they had, so far, absolutely failed to get from the Admiralty any form of inquiry, showing that they had no confidence in the scheme, because if they had confidence in it, they would be willing to submit it to investigation. The effect of an inquiry would be to allay the sore feeling in the Service, and stop all criticism in that House. They would, however, bring the matter up until they had some form of inquiry, because they would sooner bore the House than see a Navy that was not fit for war owing to the deterioration which would come if the scheme were proceeded with.

CAPTAIN HERVEY (Bury St. Edmunds) said that on page 5 of the Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty he noticed a statement that the present number of seamen was in excess of requirements. He would like to know what were the requirements of the Service? He took it that they had 1,000 seamen in excess of requirements for manning the Fleet at a two-Power standard. Then there was the statement that as far as stokers were concerned the number was under the necessities of the Fleet, and he understood that the full number of stokers required would not be provided until the number of seamen had been reduced. He could not see any connection between the two. Were the surplus seamen going to be used to supplement the stokers in the stokehole? When a ship was commissioned as it would be for war it would be necessary to have full control of the men on board working the ship. They wanted all the seamen drilled in order to bring them up to the efficiency of a ship in commission. He wished to refer to the reduction in the number of boys for shipwrights and coopers. In the report of the Douglas Committee for the year before last, on page 157 there was an article upon the future development of the scheme of training. The House would remember that it was intended that all the workshop business of the stokehole department should be done by a special class. The engine-room artificers were to be entered as boy artificers and trained to carry out the workshop business. When a survey was taken of the Navy Services it was found that they had two separate sets of workshop people, one employed under the carpenters of the Fleet and the other under the engineers of the Fleet. In the Douglas Report it was suggested that in future the carpenters, as far as a great many of their trades were concerned, more especially in regard to shipwrights and blacksmiths, might very usefully be trained as boy artificers and so come under the engine-room department in future. He noticed in the scheme before them a reduction in the number of shipwrights, and he asked whether it was in the carrying out of the recommendation of that Report that that reduction came in. If so, he was not averse to the scheme at all, because it was only a natural sequence of the new system of training that had been introduced. He would like to know whether it was to be considered as the beginning of the development of the scheme for shipwrights.

Mr. G. CROYDON MARKS (Cornwall, Launceston) thought the inability to obtain a sufficient number of stokers in the Navy was due to the unfavourable conditions under which the men had to work. Instead of being given duties which they could do without any special skill they were now to be trained for six and a half years in order to do work which could be done by men upon whom the nation had not spent anything. Men were taken from the stokehole to learn a trade in three months, and after that they were to be sent to sea to take charge of engines. Then they were to be taken back again and educated for two years. If at the end of six and a half years they were found to be incompetent they were to be sent back to the stokehole after the money spent upon them had been wasted in trying to replace men who at present fulfilled all the purposes required from experience gained outside the Service. The number to be promoted from the stokehole every year was 100. There were 30,000 men in the Navy, and 100 men every year were to have the opportunity of promotion. They were to be made into skilled tradesmen, and they had to be twenty-five years of age before they started. Everyone knew it was almost impossible to teach a man a trade after he was twenty-five years of age. They were taking a man who had had no previous mechanical training, and it was perfectly certain that he would prove to be incompetent to take charge of the engines. The man in the engine-room must be a man of resource, because difficulties would crop up which only engineers could deal with. The boy who had been through the workshop would obtain engineerng knowledge which would enable him to foresee what might be a trouble and remedy it before it became serious. The man taken from the stokehole to the engine-room would not understand the little difficulties, and they might reasonably expect more breakdowns, and consequently more repairs would be required when such men were in charge of the engines. The plan had been tried in the American Navy and had failed. With regard to the stokehole being undermanned and the number of stokers short of requirements, it was not at all surprising when the avenue for promotion amongst stokers was limited to an educational service which they had to take up and in regard to which they had had no previous experience. The same with the boys. The artificers who joined the Navy came fully armed with five years experience of the workshop acquired at no expense to the country. They were about to train up men at great expense to take the place of those who under the present system came in already trained at their own expense, and what was more, they would not get such good men trained under Navy conditions. The men they were about to introduce into the engine-room would be less efficient than the same service in the mercantile marine. The Board of Trade were being pressed to make the period of service five years before a boy should be considered to have learned his trade, and fit to go into the engine-room. In the Navy they were going to give them three months training and then turn them into the engine-room. If that sort of thing went on they might expect more trouble with the engines than they had had in the past. They would at the same time be eliminating from the service the most practical men and placing in the engine-room men who had not been trained as engineers. The system of common entry was good in breaking down prejudices between one part of the service and another, but it was extremely bad for producing a good engineer. To produce a good engineer a man must have a desire and an aptitude for the work. When at Dartmouth he asked 100 boys what part of the service they proposed to go into, and less than ten expressed a preference to become engineers. Those were the officers who would by-and-bye mann our ships. As a matter of fact, out of every eight officers in the service three would have to be engineers, and in future those three would not be specially trained. There were a number of artificers detached from their ordinary work to train stokers who by-and-bye would take the places of those who were teaching them, and consequently the feeling between the artificers and the stokers was very acute indeed. The discontent existing in the ranks of the stokers was due to the fact that all avenues of promotion had gone, and they had no possibility of advancement except by becoming tradesmen and mechanics, and then after six and a half years they might be sent back again into the stokehole if they were not competent. He was sure such a system was not in the interests of His Majesty's Navy.

MR. COBBOLD (Ipswich) said it was to the *personnel* of the Navy as well as to the Army that they should really look if there was to be any reduction in armaments. He regretted to say he did not find from the First Lord's Memorandum that there was any desire on the part of the Government to reduce our bloated armaments so far as the Navy was concerned. His hon. friend behind him had suggested when this question was formerly before the House that there might be a reduction of 8,000 men, but great anxiety was shown to get Mr. Speaker out of the Chair and they were requested not to make any remarks then. He did not say that things were hurried through Committee, but the questions which came up for discussion on the Navy Estimates and also on the Army Estimates were such that he did not think too long time could be spent on their consideration. The Prime Minister had stated that we, having such an enormous Navy, had above all other Powers an opportunity of playing a noble *rôle* in leading the way in the reduction of armaments. The first way to reduce the Navy was to reduce the *personnel*. It was generally admitted that we were to have a two-Power standard with a margin over. The Government had not said that we ought to have, as we had at present, a three-Power standard. The French and German navies had a *personnel*, according to the Secretary to the Admiralty, of under 100,000—it might be 94,000 to 98,000—while we had 128,000. We were therefore far beyond the two-Power standard in *personnel*. It appeared to him from the First Lord's Memorandum that we had too many men altogether, though we had not enough stokers. He would be glad to hear from the Secretary to the Admiralty the number of seamen and stokers living in barracks. He believed there were a good many thousands of so-called sea-faring men who lived a land life in barracks. That pointed to the fact that we were already over-burdened with *personnel*. Second thoughts were often better than first, and he hoped that the Government would find before the Navy Votes for the year were finally passed that it would be a very good thing to go into The Hague Conference with a considerably reduced *personnel*, in order to show to other nations that we had really made an important step forward and to ask them honestly whether they could not see their way to make similar reductions in their *personnel*. If a substantial reduction were made in the *personnel* of the Navy it would be seen that the Ministry were really in earnest in trying to reduce these bloated armaments and in trying to provide the means by which reforms in connection with domestic policy could be forwarded—reforms which were so dear to the Labour Members. He would like to see those hon. Members, one and all, doing their best to get reductions in the Army and Navy, and first of all in the *personnel* of the Navy.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the hon. Member for the Launceston Division had stated that this country should play a "noble part" in the reduction of the armaments of the world. That sentiment was cheered, though faintly, by hon. Members on the other side of the House. It might be a great thing to play a noble part, but it might also be extremely dangerous, and he thought the majority of the inhabitants of these islands would be inclined before they played that noble part to ascertain that the other countries in the world were also going to play a noble part and reduce the number of men in their navies. As far as he could see there was not a single country in the world which was prepared to follow us in that particular work. He was inclined to think that the Government had reduced the number of men too largely. It should be remembered that though it took a considerable time to build a ship, it took a longer time to provide trained men to man the ship. It was, therefore, most essential that there should be a reserve of trained capable men. What nobler service than the Navy could men enter? It might to a certain extent solve the question of the unemployed, because the larger the number of men in the Navy the smaller would be the number of men seeking employment in other directions. He understood the hon. Member for the Launceston Division to say that because the artificers and stokers learned their work the one from the other there was friction between them. All had to learn from somebody; no one was born with a knowledge of any particular subject. He failed to see how the fact that one man learned his business from another should cause discontent either to the man who was taught or to the man who taught, unless, of course, the lesson was badly given. The hon. Member had also said that those men were under the impression that all avenues of future promotion would be closed to them. He was informed that the reverse was the case, and that stokers would be able to rise to the rank of warrant officers, a position to which they had never been able to rise before. If that were true, where was the foundation for the hon. Member's complaint? As to the artificers, he understood that instead of being imported from the outside after learning their business they would be taken in as boys and taught their work in the Navy. Everybody knew that the younger a lad entered the Navy the better it was for him and for the Navy. And so it was in every walk of life. He did not know whether to congratulate the Civil Lord of the Admiralty on having made this alteration, because he did not, as a rule, view with any great favour anything which emanated from that bench; but if he had really made this change, he and the hon. Members behind him were to be congratulated on having done the right thing for once. The only fault that could be found with this particular Vote was the reduction of the number of men in the Navy. The reduction was of the wrong sort: a reduction of the number of boys who entered the Navy and looked forward to take the place of older men who were discharged or left. One of the reasons why it had been so much easier to obtain recruits for the Navy than for the Army was that they were taken into the Navy as boys. The boys liked the profession and they remained there; and therefore it was a great thing that that excellent beginning should be continued. He hoped that when the Conference at The Hague took place and, as everybody knew would be the case, bore no result, the right hon. Gentleman opposite would remember that.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Hear, hear.

SIR F. BANBURY: Did the Prime Minister cheer that?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, I cheered the frankness of your expectation.

SIR F. BANBURY said that he had always found throughout his life that it was a great advantage to be practical. He hoped, as he had said just now, that, if the result of The Hague Conference was *nil*, the Government would take their courage in both hands, disregard the advice of their supporters below the gangway, and endeavour to keep up the strength and the *personnel* of the Navy to the level at which they had received them from their predecessors.

*MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth) said he wished to ask for an assurance from the Secretary to the Admiralty with regard to the carpenter warrant officers in the Navy. He understood from the "Douglas" Report that they were to be done away with altogether. These men were very much concerned as to their future. They were an admirable body of men and would like to know whether they could qualify for the position of "Warrant Artificer." As to the seamen, he trusted that the Admiralty would take into consideration what they considered a serious grievance. They were the only class in His Majesty's service who had to find their own kit. The Government provided the kit for the men employed in the Army; the Post Office, the Police, and the County Councils, for their employees; and if a man employed a footman or a coachman he provided him with a uniform. It seemed to him, therefore, hard that seamen should be compelled out of their meagre pay to provide their own kit. He wished to call attention to what was called short or special service men employed in the Navy. These men entered as seamen as well as stokers up to the age of twenty-two years; they were employed for five years in the service, and then passed into the reserve, where they remained for seven years, and afterwards got a small pension. What could these men learn of seamanship in five years? During that time they were mere apprentices, and the worst of it was that they could get practically no promotion whatever. These short-service men were only entitled to reach the position of leading seamen in the Navy. He had, moreover, not been able to ascertain that there was a single man under the short-service system who had ever reached the position of leading seaman in the Navy. He had made diligent inquiries among officers and men, and he found that the system was condemned root and branch by everybody he had spoken to about it. Would the Secretary to the Admiralty let them know whether the question had been considered seriously by any Committee or any competent body of persons? The short-service system was a weakness to the Navy and he would like to see it discontinued. It had no doubt been instituted for the sake of cheapness. But we did not want cheapness in the Navy unless it were accompanied by efficiency. So far as he could ascertain, these short-service men, although perhaps cheap, were not efficient. He hoped therefore that something would be done either to make them more efficient or to abandon them altogether.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) heartily congratulated the Member for Ipswich upon being the only consistent Member of the Radical Party. The expression "bloated armaments" occurred over and over again through his speech. The hon. Gentleman had seemed to feel that the Prime Minister was falling short of the ideal of the Radical Party in respect to reduction in armaments. He imagined that various groups of the Radical Party were beginning to find out that the Prime Minister was falling short of their ideals in more than one respect. The right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues on the Front Bench had at all events some little idea of the responsibility attaching to their office; their followers had absolutely none. They were inebriated by the exuberance of their own virtue. They had got hold of a catch phrase that they used largely at election time about "bloated armaments," but they altogether forgot that a powerful Navy was not only the best and surest means of preserving our Empire, but one of the greatest instruments for peace. During the Japanese War it was because we had a powerful Navy at our disposal that Europe was preserved from the general conflagration of war. He heartily contratulated one Member of the Radical Party at all events upon being consistent in using the term "bloated armaments" and in the desire apparently of handing the defence of the Empire over to the steamboats of the London County Council.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said that he profoundly disagreed from the hon. Member for Ipswich, whose arguments, if carried to their logical conclusion, would apply equally well not only to the reduction of the Navy but to our having no Navy at all. The hon. Member had forgotten that ours was a voluntary service, as was also that of America, and yet the cost was not more in proportion to ships and men than that of Germany. In regard to the question of Naval insurance, it was the duty of every Member of the House to see that we were on the safe side. He had read with the greatest care the articles in *The Times* and he had come to the conclusion that the reduction recommended by the Government was such as could be properly accepted; although he believed that more men were required in certain parts of the Empire rather than less men. The hon. Member for Cardiff had stated that 300,000 men could be placed on our Indian frontier. He did not believe that we could send so many men, and his hon. friend had forgotten that the policing and guarding of India would need greater not less attention while there was war on the frontier. Nobody who studied the question ever believed that India could be invaded by land across the Hindoo Koosh except the Emperor Paul of Russia who was mad, and Napoleon the Great who was a genius, and indeed perhaps himself overstepped the "thin partition." The danger to be anticipated was invasion through the Persian Gulf. For the object of Russia was to come down through Seistan to a port on what was in fact a British lake. Therefore we should always require a ship in the Persian Gulf and in the Arabian Sea, and it was absolutely essential that our flag should be flying in and that our ships should be sent to those waters. At the present moment the reduction with regard to the old ships which had been scrapped would mean, he believed, the disappearance of our flag from the Persian Gulf, towards which two powerful nations, Russia and Germany, were trending. We had for a number of years policed that Gulf and we had destroyed a system of slavery there,—he meant a system of real slavery in which unwilling men were seized and held against their own wishes and were taken from one place and deported elsewhere. He hoped the size of the fleet would be sufficient to provide for a war-ship's being kept on that station. His hon. friends behind him thought that the number of men in the Navy was too large, and the hon. Member for Falkirk, on the last occasion upon which these questions were under discussion, suddenly proposed a reduction of 8,000 men. Why the reduction should have been fixed at 8,000 he did not know; it might have been 18,000, or 80,000 so far as any argument went, or any considerations of the needs of our world-wide power and commerce were concerned. In his view of the necessities of the nation what we needed was paramount naval and sufficient military armaments, and the proposed reduction of the number of men in the Navy seemed to him to be a most irresponsible and reckless Motion. He could only attribute it to the fact that secretaries of the Cobden Club were too logical for life. He had always noticed that every principle was ridden to death by them. It was the only fault in the otherwise perfect character of his hon. friend the Member for Preston that if he got hold of a logical idea he rode it to death. On the same principle the Member for Falkirk moved the reduction of 8,000 men; but he was glad that he had had the grace to withdraw the Motion. It was said that we could reduce our men wholesale because of the present condition of alliances, but alliances were fugitive, and the position might change any day, and at that very time there were proposals to close the Baltic, a step which would require us to keep more men and ships than we had now. If his hon. friend said he moved his reduction in order to further peace he would ask how it was that President Roosevelt, the greatest peacemaker in the world, proposed to call the biggest battleship which the United States were now building, "The Pacificator," and that he had also said that the best way of securing peace among the nations was to learn to shoot straight. How was it possible for us to keep all the fairest spots on the world's surface unless we were so strong and redoubtable that nobody would dare to attack us? Our Navy was our only form of insurance, and if it were reduced it would lead to the ruin of the country, the consequences of which would first of all fall upon the working men, whose cause hon.

Members on the Labour Benches championed. Those who lived on interest on their capital might survive the disaster; but what would become of the wage-earning class he could not imagine. He challenged anybody to give any reason why at this period of the world's history we were able to cut down our armaments, while everybody else was increasing theirs. He did not see how The Hague Conference could affect the question, because we could not expect other nations to remain still while we were relatively superior in strength, and it would be folly for us to remain inactive while they were creeping up to our standard. He would like to know how the programme of building ships compared with the annual wastage. He felt that there was difficulty in discussing such a matter from the position where he stood, but he thought that any suspicion of cutting down the Navy, or any idea of reducing it below the limit which was incontestably safe, would mean the destruction of the Party at the polls. He thought the English electorate was against any risky reduction of the Navy; and when they looked at the round world and the great power we had in it he could not understand how any hon. Member could think of imperilling that power by making rash reductions in the very force which was necessary for the salvation of the country. He had some reason to think that a Welsh Member was allowed to quote poetry, and if he might do so he would, with the indulgence of the House, quote the English poet who wrote—

> "Time and the ocean, and some fostering star,
> In high cabal have made us what we are."

He hoped the spirit of those lines would enter into the minds of his hon. friends on that side of the House rather than the ideas of the hon. Member for Ipswich who had just spoken. When he saw these Motions for reduction of thousands of sailors as he thought foolishly, and without sufficient reason, recklessly moved, and saw supporters of the Government who would rather lead it than follow it—when he noted the attitude adopted towards the Government at home, and towards Governors abroad, men who, like Lord Clive, had rendered great and meritorious services to their country, a feeling of fear came over him, lest some poet in some future years might add—

> "False sentiment, suspicion and distrust,
> Have levelled that fair fabric with the dust."

*MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) was sorry if his hon. friend thought he carried logic too far, because on that occasion he was in general agreement with him. He regretted that some of his hon. friends, by means of a Motion for reduction, should seek to censure the Government for proposing what their advisors thought to be a sufficient naval strength. He thought all sides would agree that we wanted a strong Navy, but we did not want a stronger Navy than was necessary for our needs. That was common ground. The Government, acting upon the advice of the Admiralty, came down and said that such and such a Navy was necessary for our needs, and it seemed to him impossible for the House to go behind that, without asking the Government to produce material which he thought most Governments would refuse to give. He did not see how it was possible for them to argue for a reduction of naval strength without discussing matters which could not be judiciously debated in the House. He would point out to his hon. friends behind him that we could not get a reduced Army unless we had a supremely powerful Navy. The Navy was our one strength which defended not only these islands but the Empire. So long as we had a strong Navy not only was our commerce safe but our shores and our Empire were safe, and therefore they ought to insist that the Navy should be maintained at the standard of strength necessary for our needs.

*MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness) called attention to the case of the engine-room artificers who, he believed, had in the past given every satisfaction in regard to their work. They were trained in workshops throughout the country, and in that way they gained a large experience of the engineering trade, and a greater knowledge of attending to the engines of a war vessel than they would if they were trained in one particular ship. To substitute stokers for those men seemed to be to fly in the face of the argument of the Member for the City of London that they should train the child up in the way he should go. In the mercantile marine the man who took charge of the engine was a man who had served his time in an engineering shop, and then joined his ship as fourth or third officer. Then gradually, by study and by passing examinations of the Board of Trade, he might rise in his profession until he became chief engineer in one of the largest and costliest vessels afloat. The artificers in the Navy were the same class of men as were to-day running the engines of ships in the mercantile marine, and what was good enough for the latter was good enough for the Navy. It appeared to be thought that because a man had served his time in the engineering trade he could not have the capacity to take a high place in the Navy. It seemed easier to become a Member of Parliament than to obtain a high position in the Army or Navy. It ought, however, to be the business of the nation not to choose the sons of rich parents for high positions in the Army or Navy simply because they had been given an expensive education, but to select young men of mental capacity and initiative, and, in that way, to get better value for the money expended on the services than was at present obtained. They were told that one of the great sins which the men for whom he spoke had committed was that of joining a trade union. That, surely, ought to be the last thing to complain of in that House, at any rate. He thought that if the men engaged in the Navy as engine-room artificers had shown any evidence of good sense it was in joining a trade union. It might be argued by some that that was a dangerous element to have in the Navy, but he disagreed entirely with any such argument. It was an evidence of a man's capacity to think, and there was no reason to fear that the body which he had joined would ever use its intelligence and influence in such a way as to bring harm to the Navy. It seemed to him disloyal and unfair that those men should be broken and young men trained to take their place. Knowing as he did that there was a considerable amount of feeling between the various sections of men in the Navy, and that the artificers strongly objected to being used as catspaws to teach other men their trade in order that they themselves might be displaced, he hoped the Government would reconsider the matter. If the engine-room artificers possessed sufficient intelligence to become the teachers of others, that was surely sufficient evidence of their capacity to remain in the Navy. And if the Navy was to be such a great element in the defence of the country, if the blue-water school of thought was to prevail in the House, and the Navy was to be strong, it would require men who had served their time as engineers and knew their business. He ventured to say that the Navy would have to depend more and more on the efficiency of its machinery. It was no use to have good guns, good ships, and good sailors, if the ships would not move, and therefore it was necessary to have a staff of men who, if anything happened to the machinery, could put it right in the shortest space of time. The men who had workshop experience were the men to do that, and therefore he hoped the Admiralty would see to it that those men were not displaced in the future.

*Dr. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford) expressed his surprise that it should have been suggested by the hon. Baronet opposite that if the Government reduced the *personnel* of the Navy they would increase the numbers of the unemployed, because in the first place, as he understood, the reduction in the *personnel* would take place in those to be recruited, and by such a reduction no increase whatever could be made in the numbers of the unemployed. He had always understood that increased and extravagant taxation always led to depression in trade and to a number of men being thrown out of work, and, after all, large armaments had always tended to increase the numbers of unemployed. One argument used for a large Navy was that the Navy was the great factor in the insurance of the country. But there was such a thing as over-insurance, as dipping too deeply into capital. He might for the benefit of hon. Members opposite quote what Mr. Disraeli said in 1867—

> "You may have your garrisons at foreign ports and your fleets of commanding power, but if you have also omitted the principal cause of your power, viz., a sound state of finance, you may find that you have omitted one of the most important elements of your influence abroad."

Were they bold enough to suggest that we had "a sound state of finance," with expenditure of £70,000,000 a year on armaments, an income tax of 1s., taxes on sugar, tea, etc.? One of the great indictments at the last general election, brought by the Liberal Party against the late Government, was the reckless extravagance with which they had dealt with the national finances. It was then said that it was essential and necessary for the well-being and prosperity of the country to produce employment and stimulate trade, and to cut down the vast expenditure on the Army and the Navy. We had only got a snowdrop from the Army and a dew-drop from the Navy, which was not the principle upon which the people of the country desired to go. They had been told that no sufficient reason had been given for a great reduction, but he would remind the House that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty had stated that the Navy was equivalent not to a two-Power standard but a three-Power standard, and that so far as tonnage was concerned we had 240,000 tons afloat in battleships more than any other three countries. They were further told that so far as the new type of battleships was concerned we were quite safe for another three years. The Prime Minister had concurred in those facts, and had said we were far beyond a two-Power standard. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition practically agreed and said that—

> "Owing to a pause in foreign shipbuilding the two-Power standard does not come up at present."

The right hon. Gentleman could have gone further and said it would not come up for a considerable time to come. According to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean, our Navy was three to one in superiority to any Navy in the world. We therefore had a Navy equal to those of three or four Powers, and he thought it was high time we placed ourselves in a satisfactory and reasonable position. So far as rapidity in building was concerned we could beat any other nation in the world, and therefore it was only natural that the Government should be asked why they had not reduced more than they had the expenditure on armaments. The Prime Minister at the Albert Hall said—

> "We want relief from the pressure of excessive taxation, and at the same time we want money to meet our own domestic needs at home, which have been too long starved and neglected owing to the demands on the taxpayers for military purposes abroad. How are these desirable things to be secured if in the time of peace our armaments are maintained on a war footing?"

Could any member of the Ministry honestly say that what they had to do was not to put our armaments on a peace footing? As to the decrease of cost, the treatment by the Government was in the right direction, but what he complained of was that that treatment was only given in homœopathic doses. He did not know what position the Prime Minister was in with regard to the Cabinet, but they knew that in 1893 Mr. Gladstone had a severe trial. Lord Spencer had introduced large Estimates, and Mr. Gladstone tried his best to reduce them, but unfortunately failed. Mr. Morley in his "Life of Gladstone" used these words with regard to that—

> "He laboured hard at the task of conversion, and though some of his colleagues needed no conversion, with the majority he did not prevail."

He trusted that the Prime Minister, in whom they had the greatest confidence, was not in the same position as Mr. Gladstone in 1893. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would use the great powers and capabilities he possessed to secure reductions; he would have the support of the vast majority of his Party in every effort he made in that direction. We were going to The Hague Conference, but he feared not in so happy, strong, and powerful a way as we should do, though he rejoiced that this country was going to take the initiative at that Conference with regard to the question of the reduction of armaments. He thought it was our duty, to use the phrase of the Leader of the Opposition, to see that the "balance of criminality" in the mad race for armaments was not upon this country, and that we should try to lead the nations of the world to peace and righteousness. He felt that if we went to The Hague Conference with, so to speak, one battleship up our sleeve, it would not be good enough. He thought the Government should say that they were prepared not to stop at one battleship, but were ready to cut off two or more "Dreadnoughts" if other nations of the world would cut down their shipbuilding in proportion. He thought the suggested proposals for The Hague Conference were not brave enough or bold enough to command the respect of the nations of the world, and he trusted that they would go into it with greater confidence and greater faith in their own ideals. He trusted that instead of rivalry in the science of destruction, they would find among the nations rivalry in the arts of peace, manufacture, commerce, and the intellectual and moral development of peoples.

*Mr. G. H. FABER (Boston) said that fifty years had passed since we were last engaged in a European war, and in the interim, as the chances of war had diminished, *pari passu* the cost of armaments, military and naval, had increased. Fifty years ago opposite our own shores was a great military Empire based on military tradition, and resting on the Napoleonic legend. That had passed away, and in its place we had a democratic Republic, and where the power rested with the people the danger of war was minimised. Some years ago he returned from India with an eminent Frenchman who showed him how changed the conditions of France were since 1870. Before that time the articulate classes of France had no vital interest in the question of peace or war, seeing that the well-to-do could buy a substitute for a few thousand francs. Now everyone had to serve, and they had to figure to themselves their children dying of thirst and misery on the field of battle. The old Jewish Talmud told them, "The soldiers fight and the Princes are heroes;" but now the soldiers were the people themselves. They would find that throughout all the world, as the power of the people increased, so war would cease. The world prospered under democratic government. He was not there that night to vote against the Government. He believed they had a good Government, which was doing all it could to reduce armaments; and when that was done, then no longer would any great scheme of social reform, involving immense expenditure, be an impossibility. Little by little they would reduce their debts, increase the comfort of the people, and raise a store of money. He hoped the Government would continue in its good work, and decrease the expenditure and increase the prosperity of the poorer classes of the country.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) thought every Member of the House must recognise the sincerity of the hon. Member who had just sat down. They who perhaps took a different view from his recognised that he and many of his colleagues believed in an era of universal peace and prosperity, and that they could go to The Hague Conference and receive to their appeal for reduced armaments a response which would mean that other nations would agree that we should have a preponderance of power. But did they think that Germany and the United States and all the other countries of the world, who were desirous of placing themselves in a strong position, would consent that we should continue to have our present preponderance of power? Those who shared the views of the hon. Member for Boston apparently did not realise the risks we should incur by arresting our naval development under any such arrangement with foreign Powers. One war ship had been cut off the Estimates this year, owing to the fact that foreign Powers had arrested their naval development. But the Secretary to the Admiralty knew that it was only for the moment. The right hon. Gentleman shook his head. He thought that most naval experts held the opinion that foreign Powers were only waiting to lay down a type of ship which would best compete with the new ships which we had built. He believed that the majority of the Liberal Party outside the House, as well as the vast majority of the Unionist Party, did not want to see our armaments decreased unless they knew positively that other nations were arresting their armaments for the purpose of peace. But they did not know that. Might he call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to the reduction of a thousand men in the Navy? He thought that was a very serious thing. They could arrange for delaying repairs, they could arrest building without any great disturbance of the national position, but they could not get trained men at a moment's notice in a time of crisis.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Supposing you do not want them.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said it was not for him to suggest. He was only putting the point to the right hon. Gentleman. Of course, everyone acquainted with naval matters knew that men were hard to get, and when got were slow to train. In a time of stress they could get their men, but they would be obtained with greater difficulty than increasing the Navy, bringing in ships with nucleus crews and building up the war strength. The right hon. Gentleman in one of his previous speeches, and also in answer to a question, had rather led the House to suppose that the question of sending a ship, or two or three ships, to the West Indies was not beyond the reconsideration of the Admiralty.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that Question is relevant to the Vote.

SIR GILBERT PARKER wished to know if it was the intention to send to the West Indies ships with nucleus crews taken from the Home Fleet. If that were so more men would be required.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said that if ships were sent to the West Indies he understood that they would be taken from the Home Fleet and would require to have their full complements made up. Of course, if there was nothing in that point he would not press it. The right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues knew that the reductions which had been made were such as had followed from the natural and logical policy which the present Leader of the Opposition had initiated. He did not suggest that the Secretary to the Admiralty and his colleagues ought not to have full credit for any reductions they had made which were not of a cheese-paring character, but it should not be overlooked that it was the policy of the Leader of the Opposition which had made such reductions possible. The saving had been made by the co-operation of both sides of the House, and hon. Gentlemen below the gangway must not take too much credit to their Party for those reductions, or believe that any violence was going to be used towards the naval policy which was inaugurated five years ago. One thing was certain—that there never would be any violent reduction in the Navy unless there was absolute co-operation on both sides of the House. No matter how small might be the body of Unionist opinion in the House, he believed that so far as the Navy was concerned it represented the bulk of the opinion of the people of the country.

*MR. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough) desired to say a word or two with regard to the Royal Naval Reserves. They had heard a good deal about the *personnel* of the Navy, but his opinion was that they might dispense with a large number of those 127,000 men. He thought 100,000 men would be quite sufficient for the Royal Navy if they established a Naval Reserve of 50,000 men. It was only about fifteen years ago that a Parliament voted that the strength of the Navy should be 100,000 men, but the total was now 127,000. If they could strengthen the Royal Naval Reserve and make it 50,000 men it would be quite sufficient for all the requirements of the Navy in time of emergency. At present the Royal Naval Reserve was only 26,000 men, and he wished to know if it was the intention of the Admiralty to dispense with the Royal Naval Reserve altogether. It appeared from what had taken place that some effort was being made to do away with the Naval Reserve. For the last twenty-five or thirty years in almost every port of the United Kingdom a Royal Naval Reservist had been able to perform his drill on board a drill ship, but the Admiralty had now dispensed with those ships and established batteries instead, and now frequently the Reservists had to travel 200 or 300 miles in order to perform their drill. Many were married men, and they could not afford to do the month's drill and pay board and lodging, and the result was that many of them were leaving the Reserve. What policy did the Admiralty intend to pursue, and why was it that they had only got 6,000 stokers belonging to the Royal Naval Reserve in the mercantile marine? This country had the largest mercantile marine of any country in the world, and no nation ought to possess a better reserve of stokers. Let the House note what a saving it would be to the nation. A Naval Reservist stoker would receive £6 or £7 a year, and as far as efficiency was concerned he would be superior to the naval stoker in every sense of the word. He did not say that the naval stokers were not good enough for the duties required of them, but the mercantile marine stokers had had more experience of different kinds of boilers and they were better men by far. They would cost about £6 or £7 a year, and in case of emergency they could be called upon to make up the complements on board the war-ships. As a fighting force he knew that during the late war in South Africa thousands of the Naval Reserve men deserted merchant ships and joined the different regiments at the Cape, and did a great amount of fighting. They were a body of men who would be available in all parts of the Empire for the Royal Navy in time of emergency, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give him some assurance that the Admiralty did not intend to reduce the Royal Naval Reserve.

*Mr. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said the hon. Member for Gravesend had warned them against taking too much credit to themselves for the reduction which had been made in the Navy Estimates. He wished to point out that the very strength of their position lay in the fact that they were not inaugurating but continuing a policy of reduction. Who inaugurated that policy? Surely it was inaugurated by a statesman who was acknowledged by the whole of Europe to be one of the most far-seeing Ministers they had ever known, Lord Salisbury. The question of the reduction in the Navy was brought to the front in August, 1898, when they first heard of that celebrated Memorandum drawn up by the Emperor of Russia which was sent to all the foreign representatives attending at St. Petersburg. What was the gist of that Memorandum? It began in this way—

> "The maintenance of a universal peace and a possible reduction of excessive armaments which weigh upon all nations represent, in the present condition of affairs all over the world, the ideal towards which the efforts of all Governments should be directed."

How did Lord Salisbury receive that Memorandum? He accepted it in the most sympathetic spirit, but not in a hurry, for he waited practically until the beginning of the following year. It was true that in October Lord Salisbury wrote a letter to Sir Charles Scott, the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, in which he said that careful consideration had been given to the Memorandum of the Emperor suggesting that some limit should be put to the increase of armaments, and then he went on to say that the cordial sympathy of the Government would be given to the objects and intentions of His Imperial Majesty. In that letter to Sir Charles Scott, Lord Salisbury said that the sympathy was not confined to the Government, because there had been very remarkable proof given of it by popular opinion by meetings held and resolutions passed all over the country in favour of that reduction. Lord Salisbury went on to say—

> "Unfortunately it is true that there has been a constant tendency on the part of almost every nation to increase its armed forces, and to add to an already vast expenditure on appliances of war. His Majesty's Government will gladly co-operate in the proposed effort to provide a remedy for this evil."

On February 14th in the following year, 1899, after certain correspondence had passed they found that Lord Salisbury definitely said to Sir Charles Scott in a letter which our Ambassador was instructed to lay before the Russian Government that—

> "Her Majesty's Government will gladly accept the invitation which Count Mouravief contemplates for a conference to discuss the best method of attaining the two objects specified in His Excellency's note, viz., the diminution of armaments by land and sea, and

the prevention of armed conflicts by pacific diplomatic procedure."

He wished to remind the House that the reduction of armaments of which the Prime Minister spoke the other day, with the enthusiastic sympathy of his supporters and of many who could not perhaps be placed in that category, was a proof that the Government desired a policy of continuity in the matter. That was the strongest possible position they could take up. It was not the wild dream of some visionary who talked of the millennium and universal peace. It was the heritage handed on to us by the most far-seeing statesman, in regard to foreign affairs, who had been seen in Europe within the memory of living man—a statesman who maintained the dignity and honour of the country under very difficult circumstances. Lord Salisbury's foreign policy was not always admired by members of the Liberal Party, but they recognised that he was the last man in the world to speak rashly of the reduction of armaments if he did not mean to carry out the proposal. There could be no doubt that the Conservative Party, at the time referred to, had in their mind a reduction of military and naval armaments, and that would necessarily include a very considerable reduction in *personnel*. Considering the origin of the policy of reduction, there ought to be no difficulty whatever in securing the support of, at all events, a large majority of Members on the other side of the House.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside) said that, after the speech of the hon. Member for Preston, he felt bound as a lay Member to enter his protest. If criticism on the Navy Estimates was dangerous because it could not properly be put forward, save on the basis of information which the Government would naturally not give, he did not see why they should have any time devoted to the discussion of the Estimates at all. When the hon. Member spoke of criticism being excluded he expected he was disposed to "compound for sins he was inclined to" by, for the moment, "damning those he had no mind to." He was bound to say that there had been no justification offered of the general objections made to the reasonable proposal that there should be a further limitation of the *personnel* of the Navy, which was obviously the means of reducing the general expenditure. There had been nothing but general and vague considerations, taking sometimes the form of menace as to the danger we ran if we did not remain the supreme naval Power. We were supreme at the present moment. There never had been such a navy as that which we now possessed. They were sometimes told from the other side of the House that the greatest necessity for the security of peace of mind in the country was the possession of great power. The country appeared to get no security for its peace of mind from the fact that it was in possession of an enormous superiority of sea power, and at present there was raging around them propaganda for conscription. No amount of naval preparation had ever secured to the nation any sense of security whatever. What was the reason of the crusades for naval expansion which worked on the minds of those who did not calculate? He once before described some of the crusaders as monomaniacs. He used that word not in a physiological but in a purely sociological sense. They were men who sought blindly to increase the Navy without any sense of its proportion to other navies. He did not suppose that there ever was got together any body of naval men who would admit that at any period of our history our Navy was sufficiently strong. When he heard naval experts say that our Navy was far below the ostensible power of other navies, and that it was insufficient to cope with them, he turned to the newspapers of the continent and saw that the experts there gave exactly the same criticisms in regard to their navies. The suggestion that the House must just vote what the Admiralty asked as necessary for the naval strength of the country, without comparing our strength with that of other nations, had nothing to justify it at all. The Admiralty always desired to have as strong a Navy as possible, and he did not believe that the Estimates at any time represented what was asked for; it was the resistance of men with some sense of proportion which kept the demands within approximately reasonable bounds. The excuse always made was that other Powers were increasing, but the fact was that we were still increasing faster than any other Power. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had argued for increasing the strength of our

Navy by referring to the projected shipbuilding in connection with foreign navies. Because Germany was doing something at the present moment, that was to him a reason why we should also do something.

MR. BELLAIRS: Will the hon. Gentleman compare the Navy Estimates of 1904 with those of 1907?

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON said the hon. Member always fell back into the region of projects.

MR. BELLAIRS said that, while there was a reduction in the British Navy, there was an increase in that of Germany. The only other country except ourselves which had reduced her Navy was Russia.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON said the Russian Navy had been to a large extent annihilated either by being sent to the bottom of the sea or by passing into the hands of the Japanese. Had we acquired nothing from the *entente cordiale* with France that we should still go on increasing our Navy? The Leader of the Opposition had said that the making of an ally was no justification for a reduction of armaments, because the ally would expect us to remain as strong as before, or to make ourselves stronger.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that what he stated was that the making of alliances could be no justification for a reduction of armaments, because our allies would expect us to keep up our strength. If the hon. Member had said that alone, he would have had no quarrel with his argument, but he went on to say that his argument was that the making of alliances was a ground for increasing armaments. That was putting an illegitimate load on his argument.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON said it was a legitimate inference. Armaments could not always remain at the same point of strength, and it followed from the argument that there could not be reduction, and the more allies the closer the approach to bankruptcy. The increase of foreign navies was a consequence of the increase of the British Navy. Only one Power talked of supremacy on the sea, and that was taken as a perpetual menace. There was much to be said for the opinion expressed by the Prime Minister, that many people had reason to know that our aspirations were not hostile; but still a great many people, seeing our Navy increasing, and hearing our national song setting up dominion of the sea, would feel that our naval strength was a menace, and would increase their own navies. The Power to begin to set some pause, some check, to the mad expansion of armaments was the Power with the greatest naval armament, and which could most easily stop the increase. He remembered that the Leader of the Opposition did once offer a demonstration which accounted for much at the time of the peace of Europe. There was a kind of panic among his friends as to the risk of landing a raiding force on our shores, and the right hon. Gentleman showed that it was so idle a risk and so idle a fear that such an event could not happen without our knowing beforehand what a foreign Power was going to do and without our taking precautions. The right hon. Gentleman showed how unreasonable were the the fears on which the panic mongers were constantly preceeding; but as soon as we came to any practical measure in the way of inducing other Powers to restrain the growth of their armaments, the right hon. Gentleman immediately allowed the spirit of Party to dominate him, and he exclaimed: "What a danger it is to propose to cut down our Navy!" The right hon. Gentleman played upon the two words "efficiency" and "strength"; but it was possible that the strength as well as the efficiency of the Navy might be increased by reducing the number of ships. Surely, after all, the practical question was the reduction of cost all round. He had tried, during the past year, to think out some reasonable, businesslike basis on which the Powers might come together and agree to reduce their outlay on armaments. He thought there was a very general feeling now that the fairest test was the test of cost, and that a beginning should be made in the reduction of the cost of armaments from year to year. He believed that hon. Gentlemen below the gangway opposite, (the Labour Members) had a clearer vision on this subject than the occupants of the benches above the gangway. Old-age pensions could never be obtained so long as we had this enormous expenditure on the Army and Navy.

*MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said that the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had forgotten that our very existence depended upon our supremacy at sea. We apparently had got only fourteen battleships really ready at any moment to fight a possible enemy, which possible enemy would in six months time have sixteen to eighteen battleships instantly ready for immediate war. He asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the dockyards were not short of several thousand men at the present time, and why it was that the plumbers and blacksmiths at sea got only about half the wages which were paid to the similar class of workmen in the dockyards? Was not that also the case with the carpenters' crew and joiners? He might remind the right hon. Gentleman that that was especially hard on married men who, when at sea, had to keep an establishment on shore and had to pay rates and taxes, whilst for their own food and drink on board the Admiralty only allowed the magnificent sum of 10½d. a day, while they had also to pay for the upkeep of their uniform, which cost from £3 to £5 per year.

*MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said that the naval construction in the last year for which they had the figures of the United States and France combined was £17,000,000, as against our expenditure of between £11,000,000 and £12,000,000 for the same year; so that it was a vain aspiration that this country should maintain a Navy of equal strength to any other two Powers. We had never entered into a naval combat without alliance with other Powers, though it was true that we had once engaged in a successful land campaign in South Africa—an Empire of 400,000,000 against 400,000 people—1,000 to 1. He thought that in the future we should make sure that when we went to war we should not do so without allies. It was an altogether vain idea that we were for ever to rule the sea. We could be very happy if we were a little humble. Holland, Norway, Sweden had not a two-Power standard; nor had France and Germany, and yet they were happy! The two-Power standard was a barbarous idea, contrary to all the teaching of modern philosophy. [Interruption and laughter.] Hon. Members might laugh, but the two-Power standard took money out of their pockets in the shape of taxes. An hon. Member had spoken about a warship's being sent to sea, in 1897, under a Conservative Government, short of fifty officers, and with a crew partly made up of 300 boys of nineteen years of age and under. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had referred to the number of collisions and groundings; that showed that our Navy was still inefficient, because we had more men and ships than we could effectually manage; and he was told that the guns in the Navy were not properly sighted.

*MR. SPEAKER: There are no guns on this Estimate.

*MR. LUPTON said that if they reduced the Estimate for men and ships they would have more money to spend in making the Navy efficient. There was a battleship which ran ashore on Lundy Island. How did that happen?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must confine himself more closely to the discussion of the Estimate before the House.

*MR. LUPTON said that owing to the excessive number of men and, consequently, of ships, proper care was not taken, and so a great battleship was ordered to steam at night and in a fog direct for Lundy Island. The expenses on the Navy should be cut down to £20,000,000.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton) said he was sure the House would forgive him if he did not follow his hon. friend the Member for Sleaford in his discussion of the two-Power Standard, which was not relevant to this Vote. Numerous references had been made to the forthcoming Hague Conference, but all he desired to say in regard to that was that they, on that side of the House, were loyal and devoted to the Prime Minister in his efforts to arrest the growth of European armaments. He wished to bring the House back to the various criticisms that had been made on the Admiralty policy. The hon.

Member for King's Lynn commenced by calling attention to the excessive number of groundings and collisions which had taken place in the Navy. He was sorry that his hon. friend should have made that reference, which really implied that our Naval officers had a lack of executive ability.

MR. BELLAIRS said that what he implied was that the existing system providing for the training of officers and their distribution was at fault.

*MR. LAMBERT said that he could not help thinking that the words used by the hon. Member, taken logically, implied a lack of executive ability on the part of the officers. He believed that he would be unworthy of the position which he occupied if he did not defend British officers against such a charge. From his experience at the Admiralty he did not think any body of men could be found in the Empire who were more devoted and loyal or who served their country with more ability than Naval officers and men. The Admiralty would watch with the greatest possible interest the development of the new system of training of officers; if it could be improved they would have an open mind; but so far as they had been able to ascertain, the new system at Osborne and Dartmouth was giving every satisfaction. As to the complaints about the reduction of men, they had sufficient to meet the requirements of the Navy. The explanation of the fewer boy shipwrights who were being enlisted was very simple; it was that the modern battleship was becoming more and more a complex machine, and therefore there were not so many shipwrights; but more mechanicians and such like were required. It was not the fact that they were getting insufficient stokers; indeed, this year they were estimating for 1,227 stokers more than last year. The growing increase was called for by the greater machine power of the battleships. In 1895 in the old "Majestic" class there was one stoker to three seamen; in the "Invincible" class there would be three stokers to two seamen. Taking another criticism he could not but think that to give some avenue of advancement to the 30,000 stokers in the Navy was a very laudable object. Nor could he admit that the new rank of mechanician would be a failure. Up to now the reports did not bear out that prophecy; but, on the contrary, the experts' opinions had been universally favourable. He defended the system under which boy artificers were trained to do mechanical repairs in the ship. It was essential that engine-room artificers should be trained in the use of marine engines when young. Hitherto, they had had largely to pick up their knowledge in the ship. Out of seventy-two engine-room artificers entered from October, 1905, to May, 1906, eighteen only had any knowledge whatever of marine engines. They had to be taught, therefore, by the officers on board ship. There was not the smallest idea of crippling or aiming any blow at the trade unions. All they wished to do was to add to the efficiency of the Navy. Of course, as they got more efficient artificers to repair the ships at sea there would be fewer repairs to be done in the dockyards, and that must add to the efficiency of the Navy. On that subject too, however, the Admiralty would keep an open mind, but in the meantime the opinion was that the experiment would prove a success. With regard to the kit of seamen and other matters connected with the lower deck, they were matters on which the Admiralty would be prepared to have an informal conference with dockyard Members. A free kit would cost about £350,000 a year. With regard to the short-service men, of whom there were about 2,000, he reminded the House that the best of those men might be selected for continuous service, and anything calculated to improve their condition the Admiralty would be glad to consider. Recruiting for the Naval Reserve had been reopened. The fact that the Estimates had been attacked on both sides—on the ground that the reduction was too much and, on the other hand, that it was not enough—showed, he thought, that the Admiralty were pursuing a safe middle course. They had in this matter special responsibilities. He did not believe the country or the House of Commons would begrudge the Admiralty any money essential for the defence of the country, and their duty was to give the country full fighting value for the money which was entrusted to them to spend.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As is customary on occasions like these, the debate has varied between questions of rather minute administrative detail and those of the largest national policy. I propose to touch upon both branches, although the comments I have to make upon administrative matters are not of a very elaborate description, nor are they urged against the Government in any hostile sense. The first question I have to put is with regard to the nucleus crew. The hon. Member for King's Lynn told us that the ships with nucleus crews did not as a matter of fact have that kind of sea training which would make them thoroughly competent to deal with any emergency. He told us specifically that they seldom went out except by day, and did not have those navigating opportunities and responsibliities which are, of course, essential elements in the efficiency of any fleet which may be called on active service. I should hope the criticism is ill-founded. I had always understood that the nucleus crew differed only from the complete crew, not in the absence of practice in essential matters of navigation and so forth, and not in the absence of really skilled and expert members of the crew, but chiefly in the fact that the less skilled members of the crew were not kept on board—that the skilled ratings, not for a long voyage, but for the purposes of a short voyage, were adequately filled, and that to all intents and purposes a ship with a nucleus crew was as efficient for a short spurt as a ship which is completely manned. The second question relates to economies in the matter of repairs. It was always held by the Board of Admiralty when we were in office that in the matter of repairs nucleus crews are often far more economical than the system for which the nucleus crew was substituted. I am quite disposed to accept that view. The only thing that makes me hesitate is that the argument used in the First Lord's Memorandum appears to be a fallacious one. The argument I am now going to present is one which my hon. friend would have presented had he been able to make the speech this afternoon which he desired to make. On page 8 of the First Lord's Memorandum there is an argument showing the economy in matters of repair due to nucleus crews based on a comparison of the repairs required now and the repairs that were undertaken in 1904, just before the new system came into operation. My hon. friend points out to me that that comparison is very unfair, because in 1904 under the old system a great and costly effort was made by the Admiralty to put the existing ships of the Fleet as it then stood in a state of complete repair. The cost was undertaken. That makes the year 1904 a very bad standard year of comparison, a very insufficient ground for thinking that nucleus crews are really more economical in the matter of repairs than their predecessors. The new system is not shown by that argument to be better in this respect than the old one. I should not have felt disposed to ask the question at all except that when an argument is advanced in favour of a course which you are predisposed to believe good, and that argument appears to be bad, suspicions are excited which might not otherwise be aroused. These are the only two points of detail on which I ask for enlightenment. The more general question I cannot avoid, though I shall treat it briefly. It is inevitable that on Vote 1—the strength of the Navy—the different schools of thought in this House as to the strength of the Fleet we ought to maintain should give voice to their respective opinions. I am rather surprised at the number of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway on the other side of the House who seem to think the Government are erring in the direction of extravagance. I think the attack made upon them by four or five speakers on those benches was begun by the hon. Member for Ipswich. He made a brief speech, in which he used the old argument, or the old rhetoric it would be more accurate to say, against what he called bloated armaments. By bloated armaments I suppose he means armaments in excess of our requirements. I do not think "bloated" expresses that. It was evidently a term originally used for purely rhetorical purposes, and I daresay that when it was first used it was a good one. I think by constant wear and tear it has become a bad one; at any rate, it conveys no precise or clear meaning. It is open to any one to say we have too large a fleet, but we do not help the matter by saying that the fleet is not only too large, but bloated. It is a matter of the first importance for us to come to sound and clear views. Let us argue the question as a business matter. It should be capable, I do not say of mathematical demonstration, but of fairly clear proof, whether we have or have not the Army or Navy required to meet the accidents, difficulties, and dangers with which every country, be its policy as pacific as you please, may find itself face to face amid the changes of this changing world. But you must not count on being able to increase those armaments to meet a necessity unless you can show that that necessity is so far off that you can build ships, enlist the men, train the officers, and go through the elaborate processes required to augment the fleet till it can meet the particular contingency you have in your mind. When hon. Gentlemen glibly say we ought to reduce our fleet, on what arguments do they base that statement? Two hon. Members who made speeches said the magnitude of the armaments under which the world now suffers was due primarily to the fact that this country insisted on taking up the arrogant position of being mistress of the seas. I daresay the phrase is more suited for home consumption than foreign use. I daresay it may be used in a provocative sense. I myself never use it; I think it is open to misinterpretation. But what is the vital truth that lies behind the phrase? It is that we depend as no other nation in the world depends, not for offence, but for defence and safety, upon having a Navy which is so preponderant that we need not be afraid of any alliance of two Powers against us. Will anybody say that that proposition, stated as I have stated it, is aggressive or untrue? If it is neither, is it not folly for us to hold that we are able materially to diminish our Naval Estimates when we know there are other countries who are building or have building programmes and intentions which certainly seem to imply that they do not mean to leave that position wholly unchallenged? One hon. Member, criticising the Member for King's Lynn, said that that hon. Member based his calculations not on what foreign nations do, but on what they say they are going to do. If the hon. Member for King's Lynn does that, I think he is open to some criticism. I, for my own part, would not advise the Government to take that course; I believe they are right in doing what I believe they do, which is to base their programme not upon paper threats, but upon the realities of the situation. That is why I have not been one of those who criticised the Admiralty last year for dropping two battleships; because I have always understood that the diminution of their programme was due to the fact that other nations had not gone on with the ships they had intended to go on with, and that the actual ships we were building were enough to meet the actual ships of other people. It is only on what other people are doing and not on what they say they are going to do, that our policy should be based. With that qualification I would venture to say that this House could do nothing more fatal to the interests of that peace of the world we all desire to see maintained than to let it at once be understood that with our small Army we were prepared to accept the position of having a Navy which, if not small, was so small that some alliance or other could crush it. In this connection The Hague Conference has been brought up, not I think illegitimately, by more than one speaker. It was brought up in an interesting speech by the Member for Buckinghamshire, who reminded the House that the first proposal for The Hague Conference happened while the late Government were in office and Lord Salisbury was Prime Minister. I remember it well, at the moment I was in charge of the Foreign Office, and it was by me as Foreign Minister at the moment that the proposals of the Emperor of Russia had first to be dealt with. When Lord Salisbury said on behalf of the then Government that we looked with sympathy upon any attempt that could successfully be made to diminish the immense burden which armaments throw on the nations of the world, he expressed no policy which we have abandoned on this side of the House, or to which we attach less value than we did in 1898. We have, indeed, thought a more fruitful direction of diplomatic effort to be in the direction of framing those treaties of arbitration, of so many of which we were the fortunate authors, and which have already done much for the peace of the world which the general public are acquainted with, and much for the peace of the world in matters which have never come before public attention. Though I confess I look more hopefully in connection with the preservation of peace to these treaties of arbitration, I do not deny that the diminution of armaments, if you could effect it, would be an invaluable boon to mankind. But the diminution of armaments must, so far as naval strength is concerned, leave naval strength in the proportion in which it finds it, because if you are going to abandon the two-Power standard and fall below that relative naval strength which we have hitherto maintained and still maintain, then all the evils familiar to the House, all the arguments which I ventured to address to the House, regain their force, and we lose that position of pacific security which we now possess. Therefore, do not let hon. Gentlemen suppose that The Hague Conference can, or ought to be permitted to make us less navally secure than we are at the present moment. The object sought could be attained, no doubt, theoretically—I do not know whether it is practicable, that is another matter—by a *pro rata* diminution in the strength of the armaments of the great naval Powers, and if other people would abandon their building programme the first thing any Government of this country would do would be proportionately to diminish its programme. But we should be committing a great mistake if we allured anybody in this country to build their hopes of economy upon The Hague Conference, unless it be understood that The Hague Conference can only produce economy in these naval matters by insisting that our security by sea shall not be less, in consequence of the decision of The Hague Conference, than it is at the present time. Nothing less than that could be tolerated by the inhabitants of this country. If other nations are prepared to concede that, then, but only then, should we be in a position to build anything in the nature of practical hopes on the debates which are shortly to ensue at The Hague. If I may venture to say so, at the present time, we ought to rely on the common-sense view of the matter. There is no use in exaggerating the burden which the Naval Estimates throw upon us. Great as it is, it does not crush us. The Estimates are heavy, and I wish they could be reduced; but we can bear them, and we must bear them so long as foreign nations insist on bringing their fleets up to a strength which renders it impossible to reduce ours, if we are to maintain, not merely the peace of the world, but the security of our own shores and of our Colonies—so long as they insist on building fleets which require us to see, on our side, that our defensive forces remain at that level which will enable us to feel that the immense responsibilities which our position throws upon us are responsibilities which we are quite able adequately and honourably to sustain.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON, who was indistinctly heard, was understood to say: The right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down raised three questions, with two of which he has invited me to deal. The third question he did not ask me to answer, and I do not propose to deal with it, for on questions arising out of The Hague Conference I do not think I can add anything to what I have said in previous debates or to what has been said by the Prime Minister. Nor will I deal with the large general question of our proper numerical proportion of naval strength in regard to other nations, as that question will be more properly and more effectively dealt with on Vote 8. But with regard to the two specific points arising on Vote A, I ask leave to say a few words. With regard to the nucleus crew system, of which the right hon. Gentleman's Government were the originators, I think they are entitled to the credit of having originally invented it. The right hon. Gentleman has asked me whether it has succeeded, and I might put my answer in this way, that it has fulfilled the intentions of the Government as regards efficiency. The right hon. Gentleman has founded himself on an observation made by the hon. Member for King's Lynn. Let me remind the House what is the history of the nucleus crew system. It is a great improvement on the old system of reserves, under which the ships were of no use at all. It is a great advance on that, but it is not an advance calculated to make the nucleus crew ship equal to the ship fully manned. I cannot say that, but I may reassure the right hon. Gentleman by telling him that, in the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, the nucleus crew system has succeeded and has fulfilled the intentions of those who originated it. I do not know that I can go beyond that point. The right hon. Gentleman asked specifically for assurances as to the efficiency of the system with respect to repairs. The system is only a stage on the high road. As it is a great advance in itself, so it is preparatory and intermediary to the system to be established in the constitution of the Home Fleet, under which the nucleus crew of every ship will be increased to a maximum of three-fifths instead of two-fifths. The nucleus crew system has succeeded, so I am assured by those whose opinion is entitled to consideration. I do not speak on my own authority; but from what I have gathered from official opinion at the Admiralty the system has succeeded. As to repairs, that is a point which might possibly draw me a little beyond the confines of this Vote. I do not look upon the building of new ships as being more important than, if so important as, the securing that all necessary repairs are made good year by year. That is my own personal opinion, in which I think the right hon. Gentleman concurs. The right hon. Gentleman said that the period mentioned by the First Lord in his statement was, accidentally or otherwise, an unfortunate period to select—that it was not a fair period. I do not know that. The period was selected at random. There was no intention of selecting a period more favourable to this system than to any other. It was absolutely a random inquiry made by the First Lord himself, and I am not prepared to deny that there may have been subsequent circumstances which made the period not absolutely accurate in all respects; but I am assured that the general result is that the idea that there should be a provision of skilled hands in the nucleus crews to do the repairs of the ships has worked well, and that the comparison made by the First Lord, though it may not be true of all periods, is generally true for the purpose for which it was made. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be satisfied with what I have said, and that I may now ask that this unusually long debate on Vote A may be brought to a close.

First Resolution agreed to.

Second Resolution read a second time.

MR. J. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough) said he would like the right hon. Gentleman to give some information with regard to the rate of wages of stokers and seamen. The rate of pay for seamen in the Navy had been the same for the last forty or fifty years, and it was time a change was made. The Admiralty could not expect to get men for £2 15s. a month, especially when an able seaman or a stoker had to pay out of that wage 15s. or £1 a month for additional rations. That was bound to cause dissatisfaction, and the matter ought to be put right. If the right hon. Gentlemen did not see his way to clear up the point himself, he might appoint a Committee, but not of experts, of whom he had a dread, to inquire into the subject. It was one of the reasons why men left the Navy at the end of ten years and went into the American Navy, where they got £8 and £9 a month. It cost us £400 or £500 to train a man, and the American Navy got the benefit of the cost of that training. That was a question which should be carefully considered. With regard to the canteens, the right hon. Gentleman had promised a Committee to inquire into the matter. His only fear was that it would consist of naval men. He did not wish to speak with any disrespect of them; many of them were very good men in every way; but they were naval men, and were not likely to give the subject the attention which it ought to receive. He had been told that the canteen system on board ship was altogether wrong. The contractor was paid about £500 to supply the ship with stores, and the sailors, stokers, and petty officers had to suffer in consequence. Why could not the Admiralty do their own contracting? Why should they go to outside people to put stores on board ship to sell again?

*The DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think that the canteen question can be better discussed on Vote 2 than on Vote 1.

Mr. J. HAVELOCK WILSON said he had thought to save time by discussing the two questions together; but he would say no more about it, and leave the right hon. Gentleman carefully to consider it. There was also the question of the rate of pay to carpenters. A good way to get the business settled would be to appoint a Committee to meet the different Members who had taken an interest in the matter, in order that they might have the subject discussed, probably next year, when the Admiralty might be in a position to make some changes that would give satisfaction.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that a promise had been given on behalf of the Admiralty that the First Lord would be willing to see hon. Members interested in all lower-deck grievances.

Mr. BELLAIRS said that upon the wages he would like the Secretary to the Admiralty to give the House a little information in regard to the nucleus crews.

The DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order. We are on the question of wages now, and the question of nucleus crews is not in order.

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [28th FEBRUARY] REPORT.

Resolutions reported:—

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

1. "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 190,000, all ranks, be maintained for the service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at home and abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £9,835,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for the pay, etc., of His Majesty's Army (including Army Reserve) at home and abroad (exclusive of India), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908."

First Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Viscount VALENTIA (Oxford) called attention to the unsatisfactory working of the present system of supplying cavalry drafts for India. The regiments at home were, as a rule, below strength, and had a small establishment of horses. The home establishment was unequal to the responsibility of training the large number of recruits that had accumulated for the Indian regiments, and some of the young soldiers were sent out who had never been on a horse, or at all events had only had a very limited knowledge of equitation. That, of course, was most unsatisfactory. The Scots Greys, he believed, at present recruited for the Royal Dragoons as well as their own regiment. All recruits were enlisted in the Greys, and it was common to hear the remark, where the 2nd Dragoons were quartered, that the Greys were mostly Irishmen, owing to the number of district recruits sent to their headquarters, enlisted with the idea of joining the Royals, and probably to be sent out as drafts to that gallant regiment. There was a danger, human nature being what it was, of colonels commanding the regiment at home to keep all the good recruits to make good the normal wastage in their own regiment. Under that system the Indian regiments did not get the best of the recruits and there must arrive in India at twenty years of age men who were only half trained; whereas if they had been trained at a depot they would arrive in India formed soldiers. The re-establishment of the old cavalry depot system would give great satisfaction to the commanding officers of regiments, and would be a great advantage to the service both in India and at home. During his service, which began more years ago than he liked to recall, the cavalry depot had been twice disestablished, and within a few years had been again establishd. It only failed because it was starved and had not a sufficient staff of instructors to deal with the large number of recruits who, at the time, more than exhausted their slender resources. The Secretary of State for War, in his speech a few days ago on the Army, said that the cavalry had been dependent upon a system of large depots for which there was not accommodation. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman that Canterbury, the old home of the cavalry depot, still existed, with ample room to accommodate the cavalry depot, although it was now otherwise employed. There was no lack of old cavalry barracks which were now either empty or being utilised for the accommodation of other branches of the service, and which might very well be again devoted to cavalry use. The right hon. Gentleman had expressed his unbounded confidence in soldiers and his determination to act upon their advice. He was sure he might say without presumption that in arriving at that determination he was acting on the right lines. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would do well carefully to reconsider whether it would not be wise again to re-establish the cavalry depot.

Colonel SANDYS (Lancashire, Bootle) said he was very glad to hear the suggestions made by the noble Viscount in regard to the cavalry depot system. He supported those suggestions not because he was in any way specially qualified to speak with reference to the advantages of cavalry depots, but because he was strongly in favour of keeping up the system of depots for every branch of the service. Every branch, whether cavalry, artillery, or infantry, should have some rallying point from which it could draw its recruits, where they could be trained, and where the time-expired men could go when they were no longer able to fulfil their services. There ought to be such a foundation for every unit of the service in the country, and in the event of war it could be extended to a battalion to take the place of any losses which might occur in the field. The system of depots for battalions of infantry answered well during the Peninsular War under the Duke of Wellington, and it stood well the strain of war at that time. He regretted that in later days the depots had, to a considerable extent, been set aside. The system had never been thoroughly tried. An efficient officer had never been placed at the head of the depot. The depot had never been a real depot. It had been a mere skeleton. He was sure that under the administration of the right hon. Gentleman a way could be found out of that difficulty. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman under his new scheme would consider the advisability of having a system of depots capable of expansion and of stepping into the first line when that line became too much attenuated by force of circumstances. The policy of the Government was to reduce Army expenditure. He wished to point out one matter which had possibly escaped attention. He never could understand why there should be four majors in a regiment. Originally there were only two. There were places for two and no more; the other two were about as useful as a fifth wheel to a coach. They walked about with spurs and used to be called "mud majors." Two majors were all that were necessary for the carrying on of the work of a battalion, and when considering questions of efficiency and economy the right hon. Gentleman might do away with the other two and save their pay. There was, however, one exception. If the right hon. Gentleman saw his way to have real depots behind the Regular Army there should be a major in command of each depot when a battalion was at home. When a battalion went abroad there should be only two majors.

*Mr. MURRAY MACDONALD (Falkirk Burghs) said he regarded the Estimate for men as being unnecessarily large. The Secretary of State for War had justified the number proposed only on the ground that they were required for the purpose of supplying drafts for the battalions in the Colonies and in India. But the right hon. Gentleman did not say what the requirements of the Colonies and India actually were. He said that the Secretary of State for India had not indicated to him that he intended to ask for any fewer battalions than he had at present to meet the needs of India. The right hon. Gentleman spoke on that occasion merely as the Secretary of State for War, but he represented in the House not the War Office only, but also the

Government of which he was a prominent member. It seemed to him from what the right hon. Gentleman had said that the Cabinet as a whole had never considered what the requirements of the Colonies and India were, or even what our home requirements were. If that was really the case, he thought the position in which the followers of the Government stood was rather a curious one. They were pledged to effect economy in the expenditure on both the Army and the Navy, and he and many of his friends certainly understood that that economy would be secured by a reduction in strength. It was not to be merely an economy due to improved administration—they were not ungrateful to the right hon. Gentleman for what had been effected in that way—but their view, and the view which they laid before the country, was that economy was to be effected by means of reductions in the strength. They felt that the outlook in the world at the present moment amply justified such a reduction. No one denied that our relations with foreign Powers were at present much better than five years ago. Whatever might have been the justification for increasing our military armaments to the present strength a few years ago, that justification did not now exist. On those general grounds he felt very strongly that there was no justification for the maintenance of the strength proposed in the Vote under discussion. He had been commissioned by a very considerable body of those who sat on the Ministerial benches to say that though they would not press their opposition to the present Estimates, recognising that the re-organisation scheme brought in by the right hon. Gentleman over-shadowed them, and not wishing to embarrass the right hon. Gentleman, they nevertheless desired to make it clear that they did not willingly accept them.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said the Board of Selection had the duty of selecting officers for promotion. The board consisted of officers of high rank, and he understood that after they had made their selections of those who ought to be promoted their recommendations were subject to revision by the Army Council.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) said that was not so.

*MR. ASHLEY said that in that case the question he was going to ask would be unnecessary. It was so until a year or eighteen months ago.

MR. HALDANE said the recommendations were subject to revision by the Secretary of State on behalf of the Sovereign, and by no other authority.

*MR. ASHLEY said he would change the form of his question. He wished to know if any recommendations of the board charged with the selection of officers for promotion had been vetoed by the Secretary of State when they came before him. He had listened with amazement to the remarks of the hon. Member who had preceded him in the debate. He had spoken as if there had been no reduction in the number of men in the Army during the last twelve months, and as if there was not going to be any reduction in the coming year. According to the Estimates they were asked to vote 14,000 fewer men during the next financial year than during the past year. During the past year some nine or ten battalions were disbanded, and the right hon. Gentleman had recently foreshadowed the reduction or disbandment of another five line battalions, and also of the Third Coldstreams. When he was in Egypt there was a general impression in the regiment that it might be allowed to remain on. It would be a very good thing for the Army if it were. A more efficient battalion had not existed in the Army for a long time. Were the House aware that they were asked to vote only as many men as were thought necessary for the defence of the country in 1899, before the South African War? He could not conceive how it could be argued that we did not want a larger force than we had then. Did we find that we had too many Regular Troops during that War? We had increased the Empire considerably since then, had added the Transvaal and Orange River Republics, and had increased our responsibilities in Egypt. There was, moreover, one form of reduction to which he particularly objected—he referred to the reduction of the garrison artillery at Gibraltar, Malta, and the Straits Settlements. Last year there were at Malta fifty-six officers and 1,700 non-commissioned officers and men of the garrison artillery. They were asked to vote this financial year 250 fewer men than last year. He had had the advantage of discussing the situation there in January last with several distinguished officers, who had expressed their opinion that if the reduction was carried out there would not be a sufficient number of men to man the guns. That would be a very serious state of affairs in our naval and coaling station in the Mediterranean. The reduction at Gibraltar amounted to 450 officers and men, and he would like to know from the right hon. Gentleman the reason for that enormous reduction, when, owing to the redistribution of the Fleet, Gibraltar was to be made the headquarters of the Atlantic Squadron. At the Straits Settlements the reduction was 150 officers and men, and the reason for that he could not understand. The Royal Engineers were to be reduced by 700. That was a large decrease in such a highly skilled and highly technical body. If they were going to reduce the numbers in the unskilled branches of the Army, it was all the more reason why they should keep up the technical branches to the fullest number possible. The right hon. Gentleman must be aware of the great advantage to us, as a Colonial power, of having a considerable body of troops stationed at Malta and Gibraltar. Last year, when a difficulty arose in Egypt, the garrison there was reinforced from those two stations instead of having to wait a fortnight for reinforcements from home. He understood that there was a considerable doubt amongst the higher military authorities whether we had a sufficient number of infantry in Malta to man the land defences of the island in case of emergency, and he thought that that was a dangerous state of things. Some hon. Members seemed to think that the Government had not gone far enough in the way of reductions in the regular forces; but they ought to consider the needs of the Empire.

Mr. MENZIES (Lanarkshire, S.) did not think that the reduction in Army expenditure was nearly enough. The Estimates for Army expenditure at the present time were not nearly as low as they were prior to the Boer war. The contention for the increase in the Army expenditure some years ago was that there was an alliance between France and Russia, from which considerable danger might be expected; but we had now an *entente cordiale* with France, and surely not even hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House would allege that we ran at present the same danger on the Indian frontier as prior to the Russo-Japanese war. While he thought that considerable reductions should be made in the expenditure on the Army, he would be satisfied if they were made gradually. He did not agree with the suggestion that the deficiency of officers should be made up by extra recruiting at the big public schools, such as Eton and Rugby. Those, of course, were the present sources from which the war office obtained their officers, but the right hon. Gentleman proposed to amplify them. The privates in the Army were generally young men out of work, and he held that with a class system of officers, and a rank and file recruited from young men who were not able to find work, they could never make a popular Army. It they wanted to have a really national Army they must give a possible career to all classes who joined it; and the ladders to the highest positions in the Army must be by the way of merit, and by merit alone. He was quite aware that the suggestion which he was making was far-reaching, but he maintained that the national greatness of the country had been reached by the possibility of every man rising from the lowest to the highest positions in the country's service. It was well known that honest tradesmen exercised considerable self-denial in order to give their sons a good education, in the hope that they would rise in the world. Many of those young men became barristers, and it was even possible for them to reach the Woolsack.

Mr. ASHLEY called attention to the fact that forty Members were not present.

House counted; and, forty Members being found present—

Mr. MENZIES said he was quite aware that there were great difficulties in the way of removing the barrier which prevented a man from entering the Army as a private and, through his ability and capacity, emerging as a colonel or even as a general. He quite admitted that the Secretary of State could not make such modifications in his Army scheme now; but if the right hon. Gentleman would give some hope that he would keep that ideal before him he should be quite content. The carrying out of that ideal would be a great gain to the Liberal Party, and if there was equality of treatment he was quite sure, that as regarded efficiency there would be a very great gain indeed.

Mr. HALDANE said the report on the reserve of officers contemplated the chances of promotion of non-commissioned officers as a possible source of supplying the deficiency. That system existed in the Army. It was a very good system, and it would have operated very largely but for the educational test, which was increasingly high. It was very good for the Army that a man should feel he could rise from the position of a private to that of a field-marshal. It was equally certain that there should not be any privilege given to any class; each man must conform to the standards of efficiency, and they were not diminishing standards, for officers in the Army. He thought they had done pretty well in the matter of reductions, and the state of things was now more efficient than it was before the Boer War. As to the pay of the soldiers, they had in the Army a great mass of men, and it was important that they should level up the common soldier just as much as any other class of the community. If their pay and their conditions of life cost more, they were contributing towards the solution of the social problem by that increase of expenditure. With regard to the reduction of the garrison artillery at the Mediterranean stations and elsewhere, the Admiralty and the Army had been working in co-operation in that matter. The question of the proper defence of those places had undergone a searching investigation by one of the most highly skilled naval and military committees that had sat for a long time; and the reports of that committee had been submitted to the Committee of Imperial Defence. The result had been that they found that the defences of those places had been arranged on an utterly unscientific principle. The guns were useless, and useless men were kept there. They had substituted for them other guns of greater penetrating power and range, which had been put in different places from those occupied by the old guns. That policy had been carried on all over the Empire, and he believed the Empire was now more powerfully defended than it had ever been. They had a smaller number of guns, with larger penetrating power and range, and just as many men as were wanted. There was nothing which contributed so little to military efficiency as to have too much in one place, and too little in another. They had been acting under the highest naval and military advice, and in each case the results had been scrutinised by the Defence Committee. That re-arrangement was begun under the late Government. The present Government were only carrying out the very good principles that were then laid down.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) asked whether the military authorities of Malta had expressed their approval of the scheme.

Mr. HALDANE said he could not say. But the highest naval and military talent of the Empire had been employed, and to ask the opinion of some military officer in a remote place would be like putting a problem in higher mathematics to some elementary schoolmaster. They had a large surplus of engineers beyond what they required for mobilisation. There was nothing that made for inefficiency in the Army so much as having too much in the wrong place. The Selection Board was a Committee that advised him on the advice which he gave to the Sovereign. He had not interfered with decisions of the Committee. He attached the highest importance to the Committee, and even if he differed from their opinion he would think it a great evil in the long run to dissent from their view, because it would create a sense of unrest. The Army Council had never reviewed the procedure of the Selection

Committee, but three members of the Army Council sat on the Selection Board. As to the drafts to the Colonies and India, what the Colonies required had been considered very carefully, with the result that the Colonial battalions had been reduced. India was a big problem. He could only say that the responsibility rested primarily with the Secretary of State for India, and then with himself as a Cabinet Minister. They were both giving the question most anxious consideration. The problem of cavalry recruiting was perhaps the most difficult they had to deal with. Change of view had succeeded change of view in the last three or four years. The difficulty about depots was that unless they kept the recruit for a very long time he did not get a training equal to what he would get in the regiment. There was a great deal of training that could only be got by working with soldiers living their normal life. He was not at all convinced that depot training was the equivalent of regimental training. The matter would undergo scrutiny before they came to a decision about it. But it would have to be decided, because the present state of things was far from settled. As to whether there was sufficient cavalry advice at the War Office, the new Director of Military Training was one of the most distinguished cavalry soldiers in the Army—General D. Haig.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA: He is not a member of the Army Council.

MR. HALDANE said General Haig was a member of the General Staff, and of course training belonged to the General Staff. As to the question of depots in connexion with the infantry, one formidable objection to the depot system as distinct from battalion training was not merely that it was not quite as good, but that in order to put up the necessary depots there would have to be an initial outlay of £10,000,000. With regard to the question of battalion majors, there was the possibility of the double company system being put into operation in time of war; it existed in time of peace. A major was a very convenient person to command a double company. The system they had now was not one he would willingly depart from.

LORD BALCARRES said he understood that the Malta military authorities had not been consulted.

MR. HALDANE said he understood the hon. Member was speaking about the garrison artillery. If the hon. Member asked about the infantry, he would reply that what had been done was done under the advice of the Defence Committee.

LORD BALCARRES said he did not yet understand whether the supreme military authorities in Malta had or had not given their sanction to the reduction.

MR. HALDANE replied that he did not consult every person in some remote part of the Empire about military policy.

LORD BALCARRES denied that Malta was a remote part of the Empire. Malta was becoming a very important feature in military policy, and he considered that the reduction of the garrison artillery was an extremely dangerous course.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put.

STANDING ORDERS.

Standing Order 167 relating to Private Business, read.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. EMMOTT, Oldham) moved an Amendment to Standing Order No. 167, which, he explained, dealt with the payment of interest out of capital during the construction of railways. It empowered committees to allow the payment of interest during the construction of new lines under certain restrictions. The first restriction at present was that the rate of interest allowed by the committee should not exceed 3 per cent. per annum. He proposed that 3 per cent. should be altered to 4 per cent., and he was prompted to that course by the alteration in the value of money. If hon. Members looked at the Bank rate they would see that during 1906 it averaged over 4 per cent. whilst during 1896 it averaged 2½ per cent. He did not think the Bank rate for any one year was any great criterion. For his calculation he had taken the four years 1892–3–4–5 and then the average of the years 1902 to 1905. While the average for the earlier period had been 2·51, the Bank rate for the later period had been 3·3. In addition, he had taken a typical gilt-edge stock—the London and North-Western Railway 3 per cent. debentures. In 1895 they stood at 120. He had reason to remember that because he was one of those who purchased some of that stock at that price. The value of that stock yesterday was 90. People who, like himself, bought that stock in 1895 at 120 were receiving £2 10s. for their money, but anyone purchasing now would receive £3 6s. 8d., or a difference of 33 1·3 per cent., and that was exactly the difference he was recommending the House to make in altering the Standing Order. The rate of interest sanctioned by that Order was originally 4 per cent., and it remained at that rate until 1896, when the rate of interest on money was extremely low and it was thought that it should be reduced to 3 per cent. But at the present time 3 per cent. interest was inadequate, and 4 per cent. would be a reasonable rate. One factor which weighed with him in suggesting the change was that promoters of enterprises which were not of a grossly speculative character were quite unable to obtain the money they wanted, although the enterprises for which it was required were reasonably sound. The House was not now discussing whether it was right or wrong to allow interest at all. In such a discussion he would find himself an opponent to allowing interest, because he regarded the payment of interest out of capital was equivalent to watering stock. He was not defending the principle underlying the Standing Order. All he said was that for the last twenty or thirty years the House had adopted that principle, and that if they were to continue that principle the interest allowed ought to be adequate for the purpose. In his opinion 3 per cent. was inadequate and 4 per cent. was a reasonable amount. In dealing with the Private Bill legislation he had been a little appalled at seeing how few new schemes were going through. Promoters were unable to get the necessary money at 3 per cent. Enterprises really required and reasonably sound failed for lack of capital. Committees of the House, therefore, should be allowed to sanction the payment of interest up to, but not exceeding, 4 per cent. They should consider each case on its merits. To raise the limit to 3½ per cent. he did not think would be effective.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 11, to leave out the word 'three' and insert the word 'four.'"—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the Standing Order."

SIR F. BANBURY opposed the Amendment. If the rate of interest were raised to 7 per cent. it would not attract more capital for new schemes. What was keeping new schemes back was the programme of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway on the Ministerial side. Investors were not philanthropists, and they were not going to invest their savings in concerns which might be interfered with by the House of Commons, and all the fruits of their labour swept away. The Chairman of Committees had said that railway companies desired the alteration of the Standing Order. He would like to know what railway company had asked for it. As a railway director he did not agree. So far as he knew, the amount of money to be raised for railway schemes was very small, and the companies who desired to raise the money did not at all desire the proposed change. Who had brought forward the change? He did not suppose it was the hon. Gentleman himself. There must be somebody behind him. The hon. Gentleman had said that if they passed the scheme, it would only be the maximum charge, and that Committees upstairs would be able to alter it. He had great faith in the Committees upstairs, but he thought that that was rather an obligation to put upon them. An ordinary Committee went on the Standing Orders, and if a clerk was asked whether 4 per cent. was always charged, and he replied, "Yes, that is the rate which has been charged for the last year or two," the Committee would at once say, "That is the proper rate which Parliament has determined upon." It was true that there had been a change in the value of money, but how long was it going to last? Were they going to make the alteration because there had been a rise in the value of money? Personally, he was inclined to think that dear money would last for the next two or three years. He thought there were other circumstances to be considered. [An Hon. Member: A Radical Government.] No; he would not go so far as that; he always endeavoured to be fair. He did not quite agree with the interruption of his hon. friend. The rise in the value of money would not last. Was it not absurd to make an alteration which was of a very far-reaching character—because once made it could not be altered for ten or twelve years—simply on the ground that for two or three years there was a high bank rate? He would make the admission that the payment of interest out of capital was a wrong thing to do, and great authorities in the House for many years had refused to allow it. Could the hon. Gentleman tell him when the principle was first adopted? He believed it was a mistake to allow interest to be paid out of capital, because the result was that when the works were completed the cost of those works meant the sum paid for them plus the interest, and, therefore, to a certain extent the capital was overloaded as soon as the enterprise began to bear fruit. But he quite admitted, from his experience in the City, that if they wished to attract small investors they must allow them some rate of interest pending construction. He could only remember one big company, the Great Central, that had ever done it. When the Great Central came to London they raised £11,000,000. The hon. Gentleman had remarked that the ordinary stock of railway companies was paying, and that therefore the rate ought to be increased. But it did not always follow that railway companies raised money in the form of ordinary stock. The Great Central Company raised their £11,000,000 in three categories—debenture, preference, and ordinary stocks. That was the only company which he could remember that had availed itself of this particular clause. The real reason for the provision was that when a promoter was desirous of raising money for a new railway—as was done in the case of the Hull and Barnsley Company he believed; they availed themselves of this particular clause, but that was a new railway—they used the clause because to invest money and lose the interest during construction in the hope of being recouped when the line earned money was the proper business way of looking at the matter. But small investors, who ought to be encouraged, could not afford to wait for interest during construction, and therefore it was that the rate of 3 per cent. interest out of capital was permitted, and that had been the rate for the last ten years. Although he did not think it was a good thing, still he thought there was some necessity for it. But his contention was that 3 per cent. was enough for people to live upon for the time being. But it was not enough to attract the person who liked 4 per cent. Such a person said, "I believe the railway will be four years under construction; I cannot get more than 4 per cent. anywhere else; I know I can get this safely, and I shall run the chance of the railway turning out well." That was just what the promoter of shady enterprises wanted to encourage, but that was not what the House of Commons should encourage. He would really like to know what was at the bottom of the proposal. He was sure the hon. Gentleman would acquit him of any desire to make insinuations. They knew that the Channel Tunnel was under consideration. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade laughed. The right hon. Gentleman's experience, he admitted, was very great; but the right hon. Gentleman had not been in the City thirty-five years as he had. He could not help thinking that the proposal would give a very great boon to the promoters of the Channel Tunnel. The estimates of the engineers for it amounted to £16,000,000, but he had never known estimates of engineers which were not exceeded, and, therefore, they would be much more likely to raise £20,000,000 or £24,000,000—which, at the present moment, would be a practical impossibility. If anybody contemplated raising £20,000,000 in the next three or four years for a new enterprise this alteration would enable them to raise the money very much more easily.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said he fully endorsed the observations of the hon. Baronet. The Chairman of Ways and Means had introduced the matter as being simply the omission of one word, but the President of the Board of Trade would himself agree that the one word was worthy of weighty consideration from the financial point of view. He did not know whether hon. Members opposite had taken the trouble to inquire into the far-reaching effect of the proposal. He had taken the trouble to work out a calculation in connection with a scheme which had been completed for many years. He applied to it the 3 per cent. and the 4 per cent. rate for the purpose of ascertaining what would be the effect of the Amendment. He took the round figure £1,000,000, and after making all the necessary provision for payments during construction, he found that under the 4 per cent. rate all his money would have been expended, whereas under the 3 per cent. rate he got the same amount of work for £887,000, the actual saving being £112,628. Those were very striking figures. He had worked out the figures for the Channel Tunnel scheme, and he found that it would mean an annual charge of £112,620. The capital subscribed for new enterprises must be tempted, but his point was that it was unwise to tempt it by a high rate of interest during construction. He thought it would be wiser to adopt the policy of giving the poorer class of investors 3 per cent. during construction with the knowledge that at the end of that time the concern would be established on a much sounder basis. He wished to secure for small investors a sure and a proper return for their hard-earned savings. The large capitalists were guided by the best possible advice from the City and the large towns, and were able to look much further ahead and study the various large schemes of railway development, docks, or other commercial enterprises much better than the poorer class of small investors who generally invested on the strength of statements made in prospectuses. Those were the people who would have to bear the burden of the extra 1 per cent. now proposed. It would be better to have a fixed rate of interest applicable to all railway schemes. If the Committee to which a railway Bill was referred had the option of fixing any rate of interest between 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. there would be the danger that a promoting company would obtain an advantage over a rival company by being authorised to pay a higher rate of interest than the rate paid by its competitor. He thought a strong case had been made out for sticking to the old bank rate, which he did not suppose anyone had ever found to be inconsistent with good business transactions, because it was based on good and sound finance. Why was the present Motion being made? What had given rise to it? A clear exposition of the effect it would have upon the money market had been given to the House. He did not go so far as to say that there were any Bills promoting bogus or shaky undertakings, but he was afraid that there must be some moving element which had impelled the taking of the course they were now discussing. He hoped that before the discussion closed some evidence would be forthcoming to show where that motive came from. Was this particular move to be adopted every session of Parliament? On the assembly of Parliament each year were they going to consider the price of Consols, the bank rate, and the state of the money market generally, and then alter the rate so as to suit that particular period? He thought they were proposing a very dangerous innovation. The greatest security which small investors had at the present time was not so much a high rate of interest as a certainty of return, and so long as they got that there would be very little grumbling about the rate. This proposal was only adding to the uncertainty of the investors' return, and the House ought not to meddle with the mattter unless a very strong case was made out. He was aware that this particular alteration was to be entirely devoted to the railway system, but that made it all the more serious because such huge sums would be involved. If it was proposed by the Motion to encourage the opening up of railways, canals, bridges, or tunnels, it was a futile way of going to work. The proposed system of book-keeping was not consistent with British caution in money matters. The hon. Gentleman seemed to think that 3 per cent. was too low, and that 4 per cent. was the proper rate. If he thought 3 per cent. too low, and genuinely desired to raise it to anything like the bank figure, a figure consistent with the price of Consols and other Government securities, 3¼ per cent. would suit him just as well. He (Captain Craig) therefore suggested that 3¼ per cent. should be substituted for 4 per cent.

Mr. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said he really could not understand the object for proposing the change. What was the motive power behind the hon. Gentleman? If, for instance, the Motion had reference to the Channel Tunnel and the Channel Tunnel was ten years in course of construction, and during the whole of that period 4 per cent. was to be paid on the capital, it would mean that 40 per cent. would be paid away.

Mr. EMMOTT explained that there was no case in which anything like ten years had ever been allowed. The time was usually five years at the most, and the payment of interest for only half that period.

Mr. GORDON said he had had some experience of railway Bills the promoters of which had come to the House for an extension of time, and the extension had been sometimes as great as the time they had got in the original Bill. If honest members of the public wished to take shares in companies they ought to be content to take a reasonable and fair remuneration for their money, viz., 3 per cent. during the time of construction. The public had a right to see that the work intended to be done was carried out as promptly as possible. Four per cent. could not be got on a reasonably safe investment. They could not get that rate of interest on a trustee security. If an investor got 3 per cent. from an undertaking during construction he ought to be amply satisfied. If the investor was going to be induced to put money in an undertaking because 4 per cent. was offered during construction and while not a shilling was being earned he thought it would be a dangerous experiment. It would be put into the glowing prospectuses which were brought before the public in order to induce them to put their money in concerns of that kind. If investors got 4 per cent. during construction they thought they would get a great deal more after the undertaking was completed and in working order. It might afterwards be found that the undertaking did not earn any dividend for the shareholders. The House ought to pause before it agreed to the proposal. He had had some connection with the applications made to Parliament in regard to railway concerns, and he had never known a case in which any desire had been shown to exceed 3 per cent. People who took a true view of the financial situation would feel that the House was doing something to the detriment of the investing public if it exceeded 3 per cent.

*Mr. LUPTON said it had always seemed to him that the proposal to pay interest on an undertaking while it was in course of construction was unnecessary. If an investor had £500 available for investment, and if he desired to invest it in a new railway and to have interest during construction, he ought only to invest £450 in such an undertaking, and retain £50 in his pocket. He would thus save £50 as the interest on his capital and perhaps it would be the only part of his capital he would save. If no interest were payable by the company out of capital the £450 would earn as large an income as the £500 if £50 were spent in interest during construction. He had always thought that the payment of interest out of capital during the construction of works was unsound business. It was a kind of finance which auditors would not allow in connection with any private enterprise. Parliamentary concerns were the only investments in which people could get interest during construction. It was a system which weighed with ignorant people who did not understand such matters. They invested in the undertakings thinking that when the work was completed similar interest would be continued. Much as he was impressed with the reasons put forward for the alteration, he thought, as business men, they should not encourage the class of investors who relied upon that inducement in the prospectus; those poor people ought only to invest in railways already earning a dividend. He agreed with the hon. Gentleman in viewing with alarm the lack of enterprise shown by the state of business before Committees of the House, but did not think the difference between 3 and 4 per cent. would remedy that. It was the system of blackmail levied in connection with Second Readings which made promoters feel that it was exceedingly risky to come before the House at all.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 58 ; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 44.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Corbett, A. Cameron Glasgow)
Cory, Clifford John
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hodge, John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Moore, William
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingtn
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Shackleton, David James
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Snowden, P.
Summerbell, T.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Frederick Banbury and Captain Craig.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Emmott, Alfred
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael, F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Ginnell, L.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Cullum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.

Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Price,Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson,Sir G. Scott(Bradf'd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smyth, Thoma F. (Leitrim, S.)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walters, John Tudor
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Word "four" there inserted in the Standing Order.

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY] REPORT.

Postponed Proceeding on Question, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the First Resolution, "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 190,000, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1908," resumed.

LORD BALCARRES, resuming his speech, said he was not quite clear as to the exact proposal of the Secretary for War in his statement in respect to the proposed reduction in horse, field, and garrison artillery by 2,630 men during the coming financial year. The right hon. Gentleman said in his Memorandum attached to Estimates that—

> "No reduction of the establishments of the regular artillery can properly be made until *personnel*, trained on a non-Regular basis to the requisite extent, is ready to fill the gap."

He contended that the substitute was not available at present, and that the small number of men forthcoming now were not trained sufficiently to fill the gap. The right hon. Gentleman appeared to be anticipating in his reduction of men the development of his Territorial Army. He thought it was a dangerous thing at any time to reduce the artillery.

MR. HALDANE said that the men would be trained with eighteen-and-a-half pounders.

LORD BALCARRES said that the right hon. Gentleman had not satisfied him that the reduction in the Field and Garrison Artillery was justified by the substitute which was proposed to be found for the men in the Regular forces. The right hon. Gentleman promised, in his memorandum, not to deal with that force until an efficient substitute had been found, and he had not satisfied him that he had found such a substitute. It must be remembered that that was a most difficult force to improvise in time of need, and he thought if the reduction was to be carried out it would be found to be entirely premature.

MR. COBBOLD (Ipswich) wished to repeat the protest of the hon. Member for Falkirk against the very large Army that the Estimates provided for. The Secretary of State in introducing the Estimates did not deal very much with the Regular Army, but spent his time in explaining about the Auxiliary Army. But the right hon. Gentleman said that they were to have an Army of 160,000 men, and that the reason for such a large Army was that he had been compelled by the Secretary of State for India to keep the present number of troops there, although they were commensurate with the number of Indian troops after the Mutiny. He urged upon the Government that, having regard to our present policy in India, as we were not now making the aggressive frontier wars that we did a few years ago, and, having found in the Ameer of Afghanistan a safe and sure ally, were not likely to embark upon them again, this large Army was not necessary. [AN HON. MEMBER: What wars?] He should say that the wars in Afghanistan were foolish wars. He did not recollect any war in which he could not say with Lord Salisbury that we "put our money on the wrong horse."

*MR. SPEAKER said that he must remind the hon. Member that this Resolution expressly excluded His Majesty's Indian possessions. The Army in India was not before the House.

MR. COBBOLD expressed regret for his ignorance of the forms of the House. He had noticed in Vote A that there was a statement to the effect that there were in India 76,000 men. He therefore thought he was permitted to speak on India. The Secretary of State had stated that they had reduced the number of troops in the Colonies by eight battalions and that they might be more largely reduced in future also. The eight battalions was a tale gone by, and he hoped that in the present year they would see a very considerable reduction in the Army in regard to the requirements of the Colonies. In South Africa alone provision was made for upwards of 16,000 troops. It had been truly stated that we were not going to dragoon South Africa into patriotism, and in present circumstances an army of upwards of 16,000 men in South Africa was a menace to peace. In Malta, too, although the right hon. Gentleman had reduced the garrison there, and although hon. Members said he was imperilling our position by that reduction, there were still 7,500 troops, and it was not a place in which a large army ought to be concentrated, because it was not healthy. If there was a war with the Mediterranean Powers it would probably become a fever camp. The right hon. Gentleman had twice said that he was not certain whether in the Colonies there was not still a margin for further reductions. If, therefore, they made their protest on that occasion they might persuade the right hon. Gentleman in regard to Malta, where so many troops were congested together, also Gibraltar, where there was a force of 3,800 men, and Eygpt, where there were 5,100, and elsewhere, that the forces might be diminished under present conditions in the course of the year. He hoped that their protest would be, as it were, recorded by the Secretary of State, and that they would not be assumed to assent to the maintenance of the present military forces which they thought were more than sufficient for the safety of the Empire.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs) said that while the hon. Member considered that the troops provided for in the Estimates were too many, he considered that they were far too few. He was afraid that there were some hon. Members who would be content if they had a two-Power standard equal to the Navy of Switzerland and Servia, and an army equal to that of Monte Carlo. It was almost pitiful to hear little Englanders making one speech after another, trying to pull down the flag of old England. We had tremendous responsibilities, and if hon. Members on the other side of the House would go round the world—he thought some of them could go round twice with great advantage—and see our great possessions and appreciate them, and if they saw foreign armies manœuvring, they would come to the conclusion that our Army was not big enough. It was only by years of travel that one got an idea of what the British Army ought to be, and what our responsibilities were. What was our Army of 190,000 in comparison with that of Russia, Germany, France, or even Japan? Heaven help us if we had to fight any of those countries, because if we did we should be beaten. He doubted whether the Territorial Army would have sufficient stiffening with their training to stand shot and shell—although they might be if the enemy was good enough to give us six months' notice of war.

*MR. SPEAKER: The question of the Territorial Army does not arise on this Estimate.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY said that Malta had before now proved a very convenient half-way house. It was so in the Egyptian Campaign, and a number of Indian troops were quartered there when we were on the brink of war with Russia, and perhaps their presence averted it. Malta was a great possession, and the troops there were a great help towards peace. Those who remembered the trying times the Britons went through in Egypt about a year ago would not, he thought, grudge the few troops we had there. The only way to rule those Eastern Powers was to show that we were just and strong, and the more the troops were reduced in our dependencies or Colonies, the greater danger would there be of insults to our flag.

*MR. LUPTON did not agree with the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite. He had seen the great armies of France, Germany, Russia and Italy; he had seen a great review of 250,000 men, a most magnificent sight, but 30,000 of those men were cuirassiers with front and back plates and therefore unfit for battle. One thousand mounted infantry would have beaten them all. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman upon the reduction he had made in the Army in the last two years. The Army now was 190,000 men, a reduction of some 30,000 on what it was two years ago. He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should continue to reduce it for the next five years in the same ratio of 16,000 a year. That would result in a reduction of a further 80,000 men, and they would then get the Army down to what it ought to be, 100,000 strong. They might then have an Army in the highest degree effective, not birds of passage as now, but all highly trained, every soldier an expert in his business and fit to be an officer, and every man entering the ranks with the object of being an officer. No one should be an officer unless he passed through the ranks. That would attract the intellect of the country, and the right hon. Gentleman would have such a force as had not been seen for a long time. There had been times in history when similar armies had existed, and when 1,000 of such men were as good as 10,000 of the insufficiently trained troops of to-day. It had been truly said that training was necessary before an efficient soldier could be obtained, but he would point out to the hon. and gallant Member opposite that the soldiers of to-day were amateurs. Engineers, lawyers and doctors practised their professions every day, but as we fortunately did not have a war every day military men for the most part never practised their profession, and were mere amateurs, who got into what might be called a college groove and thought they knew something. When, however, they came into the field they were totally smashed by a body of farmers gathered hurriedly together. That happened in America 130 years ago and in Africa recently, and it would happen again, so long as we had officers who were proud in their own conceit, and without a really sound training. Of course he had a great respect for men who had seen service—real veterans. They ought to reduce the Army until they got it efficient. After all, we had not such a small defensive force for the Empire. There were 1,300,000 armed men who were subject to the orders of the King. What was wanted was not more troops, but more application on the part of the soldier to his business, and a large Territorial Army to defend the county against raids. What good purpose did the 16,000 troops we had in South Africa serve? That was now an independent Colony. Supposing the Boers rose again, what would become of those 16,000 men? They would not be safe, because the Boers would take possession of the communications, and those 16,000 men would be prisoners. Sixteen thousand men were too many to be lost in that way, and the sooner they got home the safer they would be. The object of the Government should be to get the Army officered only by those people who had passed through the ranks of the Army. The Secretary of State for War had confessed that he was in a difficulty with regard to the officers—then why did he not adopt the course of passing them through the ranks? Of course there was the old tradition, the old social objection, that the soldiers would not obey a man unless he came from a superior rank. He did not believe it for a moment. In the mines of the country the discipline was of the strictest, and the men cheerfully obeyed the man who knew his business who was put over them. It did not matter where that man came from, whether he came from the ranks or from above; and in the mines the men would obey to the last letter any instruction of the officials in dangerous enterprises. As it was in the mines, so it would be in the Army. Let them have good men who had passed through the ranks and the troops would cheerfully obey them.

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said he would not follow the hon. Member for Sleaford into his novel form of recruiting whether from the heights above or from the depths below. He often thought how exceptionally fortunate the House was in having more Army reformers and strategists than any other such assembly in the world. He was quite certain that if foreign nations only realised the immense amount of latent power at our command in the House in the way of the organisation of our naval and military forces they would disarm to-morrow. He simply desired to put a few questions to the right hon. Gentleman, not as an official, but as an old soldier who for thirty years had had to study Army circulars and War Office documents which, however they might encourage young soldiers in the hope of something they were going to get or create disappointment because of something they were going to lose, gave neither encouragement nor disappointment to the old soldier, because he knew he would get nothing. The question he desired to put was with regard to the 3rd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards. The right hon. Gentleman would agree that in all cases of reduction great hardship fell upon the private soldier, the non-commissioned, and the commissioned officers, for the reason that though the private soldier might be absorbed in the other battalions he must necessarily lose his chance of promotion to non-commissioned rank, because, though the battalion was increased, the establishment of non-commissioned officers was not. The number of non-commissioned officers was limited. As with the non-commissioned officers so with the commissioned ranks. Every keen subaltern looked forward to the time when he would become a captain and command his company, and to the time when having passed through his majority he occupied the proudest position that a soldier could fill and became the colonel of a really good regiment. Everybody would see by the reduction of the number of battalions that hardship was being cast upon all ranks alike. The 3rd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards was in this curious position; it was the only battalion in the Army which figured in the Estimates as a *battalion*. As the right hon. Gentleman knew, there was no finer battalion in the Army. They were sent to Egypt at a critical moment. No regiment could drill or shoot better, or had a better character. They deserved better of His Majesty's Government than to be put into the Army Estimates as a battalion in a state of suspended animation. Those who had joined that battalion were now to be deprived of the chance of that promotion to which they looked forward when they enlisted. The right hon. Gentleman well knew, as every soldier in the House knew, that the success of the scheme on which he had embarked depended, first of all, on whether he could get the necessary number of men; and, secondly, on whether he could get the right and the best sort of officers. It was not a great encouragement to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, when they had taken up the most difficult duty of forming a new battalion of an old and historic regiment, and had succeeded in making it as efficient as either of the two preceding battalions, to find themselves disbanded. He belonged to a battalion of the Guards, and he held that these officers had formed a battalion as efficient as any battalion of the Guards. It was on *esprit de corps* that the right hon. Gentleman's scheme depended, and he did not think that the Secretary for War had helped himself by throwing this very wet blanket on officers, non-commissioned officers and men, who had done their best for King and country. There were many posts in our Colonies—he did not mean the self-governing Colonies, but Nigeria and others of our possessions under the Crown—which could be filled by officers, non-commissioned officers and men. It was in those Colonies, in unhealthy climates, and amid uncertain, savage warfare, that many of our most distinguished soldiers had received their military training and laid the foundation of their great reputations. He urged that where vacancies occurred in those Colonies the first offer of them should be made to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of experience and training, who were now supernumerary to the establishment at home because the battalions were disbanded.

If the right hon. Gentleman would take that suggestion into consideration, he would do something to mitigate what was undoubtedly felt by many officers in the Army to be a very serious blow indeed.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said it was difficult for Members sitting on that side side of the House to listen to the hon. Member for Ipswich without protesting against his attitude of mind on the subject of the Army. The hon. Member had told them that the presence of troops in South Africa was a menace to peace. He thought that the hon. Member was not aware that the troops in South Africa were put in a centre where they could be trained exceptionally well under semi-service conditions for the duties which naturally devolved upon them. The hon. Member seemed to think that 16,000 troops were a source of danger to the peace of the country where they were. He (Mr. Carlile) was sure that was not the mind of most of the people of the country, certainly not the mind of the people in South Africa, who were more immediately concerned. The troops were in the midst of a country where hostilities had recently been in progress, and they were halfway between us and India, where they might at any time be required. He was afraid that the protests of the hon. Members for Ipswich and Sleaford, raised within hearing of the Minister for War, had fallen on ready ears. They had to regret that the right hon. Gentleman, trying to meet the views of a small section of the community, had taken very efficient steps towards reducing the number of our soldiers, to the manifest loss of service in all its ranks. Reference had been made to the presence of troops in Malta and in Egypt. Their presence in those places was of the same advantage as their presence in South Africa; it was where they could be trained, and where they were halfway to those great centres of military responsibility which lay about the British Empire. The hon. Member for the Sleaford Division said that we did not have a war every year. Of course, that condition of things was never likely to obtain, but at any rate if such minds as those of the hon. Members to whom he had referred were in control of the affairs of the country, then, should we have even one war, it would wipe us out so far as being a first or second or third class Power was concerned. But those hon. Members knew perfectly well that their homes were safe. They knew that they represented a small minority, and that they could indulge in that sort of talk against the Army and its interests with impunity; and they could go home to their beds knowing that, although they raised their voices against the power of the Army, yet others looked after the interests of the Empire.

*MR. MADDISON (Burnley) said the hon. Member for St. Albans had stated that those who were advocating so strongly a reduction in the Army represented only an insignificant number of people in the country. He knew that a great majority not only of Labour Members but also of the Liberal Party, put in their programme at the last election retrenchment in regard to both the Army and the Navy. He could assure the hon. Member for St. Albans that although he had hurled against them the charge of cowardice——

MR. CARLILE said he had used no such expression with regard to the hon. Member or any other hon. Member. He had charged nobody with cowardice. He asked that the hon. Member should be called upon to withdraw the statement, which was altogether unwarranted.

*MR. MADDISON said that if the expression had offended the hon. Member he would willingly withdraw it.

MR. CARLILE: Do you withdraw it? I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to call upon the hon. Member to withdraw the offensive expression.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Burnley did not accuse the hon. Member of cowardice. All the hon. Member said was that the hon. Member charged certain friends of his with cowardice. If the hon. Member says that he did not make use of such an expression there is an end of it.

MR. CARLILE said the hon. Member accused him of using an expression which he never used, and upon that ground he asked for the withdrawal of the accusation.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. Member for Burnley intended by using the word "cowardice" to imply that the hon. Member actually used that word.

Mr. CARLILE: But he said so.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think he intended to say so. What he intended to summarise was that the general trend of the speech of the hon. Member would lead people to suppose that his friends had shown cowardice.

*Mr. MADDISON said he was quite willing to withdraw the word if it was offensive to the hon. Member. They did not yield one inch to hon. Members opposite in their recognition of the bravery, devotion, and self-denial of the Army, nor would they be slack in defending the country which was to them everything, and which they loved with as intense a devotion as those who wanted to keep up the present bloated armaments. So far from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War having listened to the voice of Labour Members, as the hon. Member for St. Albans appeared to think he had done, they did not think he had gone far enough, and they asked him to continue the method of safe reduction until the Army had been brought down to something like reasonable proportions. After all, it was not military experts who ought to decide the number of the British Army; that had to be determined by policy. They had every reason so far to trust implicitly the policy of the Government. They had read with delight the speeches of the Prime Minister in which he had shown an intense interest in the promotion of international peace. They all remembered the great ideal he had held up to the nation to form part of a League of Peace. They were pleased with all those expressions and believed in their sincerity, but they wanted the reduction of the Army to follow those expressions. They had just granted a Constitution to the Transvaal, and at the head of that Government was General Botha, whose presence in that capacity was one of the best securities for peace they could possibly have. They expected His Majesty's Government to remember what had happened in the Transvaal, and they would not expect to have an Army quite so large when a saner and a truer policy had been adopted in the Transvaal. Without occupying further the time of the House, he would make a strong plea to the right hon. Gentleman to go on reducing the Army, and to make it more substantial than it had hitherto been. He believed that they were still a long way ahead of the margin of safety in regard to the Army. Hon. Members on the Opposition side seemed to think that they were now getting somewhere near the danger point in regard to reductions. He hoped the Government would not allow themselves to be led too much by military experts. The hon. and gallant Member for Somerset had made an appeal on behalf of the men who had been disbanded. He agreed that they should look after such men and do what they could for them. In such matters Labour Members were as much alive to the interest of the country as hon. Members opposite, but he wished the Government to remember that every man in the Army had to be kept by some man working outside the Army. Not one of their soldiers earned his breakfast or a button on his uniform. Someone was working in the mill or in the mine to provide the uniform and the meals for the soldier. [Opposition cries of "No, no."] That was an economic truth which could not be disputed. The Army was unproductive, and it had to be kept by those in the productive sphere. There must be an Army, he admitted, but it should be kept as small as was consistent with the safety of the country.

Mr. HALDANE suggested that the Resolution might now be agreed to, so that he might introduce the Army Annual Bill.

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD said he was quite ready to agree to that with the concurrence of hon. Gentlemen behind him. He hoped the Government would be able to give more time to the Consolidation Bill on Monday.

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide, during twelve months, for the discipline and regulation of the Army; and that Mr. Secretary

Haldane, Mr. Edmund Robertson, and Mr. Buchanan, do prepare and bring it in.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

"To provide during twelve months, for the discipline and regulation of the Army," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 107.]

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY] REPORT.

Second Resolution read a second time.

*SIR H. AUBREY-FLETCHER (Sussex, Lewes), as one who had entered the Army fifty-four years ago, urged the Secretary for War not to listen to arguments for still further reducing the Army. He was well acquainted with both Malta and Gibraltar, and the opinion of all military experts was that those fortresses ought not to be denuded of their artillery. Gibraltar was a very important strategic position. He regretted, too, the reductions that had taken place in the Guards and in infantry battalions. The result of disbanding battalions had been to make a number of non-commissioned officers lose their positions. Those in other regiments feared that their time might come. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not pay too much attention to hon. Members below the gangway who advocated a considerable reduction in the Army. The House should remember that the non-commissioned officers were the backbone of the Army. Those who had been connected with regiments now disbanded would have to wait some time before they could be placed in positions in other regiments. The House should recognise that when a young officer joined a regiment, he wished to make it his home. Many men had followed their fathers and grandfathers in the same regiment hoping to serve their time in it as their forefathers had done. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not do away with any more battalions.

MR. HALDANE regretted the necessity for the disbanding of those fine battalions, and submitted that the best provision possible had been made for the officers. Nobody had had his pay diminished until an offer had been made to him of an appointment as nearly as possible equivalent. As to the men, great pains had been taken to get them absorbed. The action with regard to the garrison artillery at Malta and Gibraltar had not been taken without close consideration. A Committee, appointed in the time of the late Government, had revised the whole of our garrisons as far as the Mediterranean. In many cases it found the guns were of an antiquated pattern and of no use against naval attack. The guns which the Committee pronounced useless were being taken away. The reductions were entirely in consequence of the Report of that Committee, and were advised by the Defence Committee after carefully considering the Report. He hoped that the hon. Gentleman would realise that the reductions were not the outcome of any new policy, or of any arbitrary act of his; but that they were the result of the policy laid down, for good reasons, in the time of the late Government.

Resolution agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS [12 MARCH] REPORT.

Second Resolution, "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st March, 1908, the sum of £38,114,700, be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom," agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Gentlemen appointed to bring in a Bill upon the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the 13th day of this instant March, and then agreed to by the House, that they do make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolution.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (NO. 1) BILL.

"To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seven and one thousand nine hundred and eight," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at Twenty-eight minutes before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 15*th March*, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Ackton Hall; Bersham; Blantyre Fame; Bothwell; Bowers (two); Calderbank; Cefn Brithdir; Dearham; Earnock; Eddlewood; Ferniegain; Frickley; Frystone (two); Gwersyllt; Halton; Kirkwood; Law; Moston; Nackerty; Newmains; Nostall; Peckfield; St. Helens; Shireoaks; Stock Field; Tibshelf; Uddingston; Victoria; Wheldale; Windber; and, Wollescote Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Abernethy, against; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Earl's Court, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Northampton, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Petition from the Association of Trade Protection Societies, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Copy presented, of Memorandum showing the Amendments proposed to the Army Act [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).

Copy presented, of Statement of the Amounts due by the Public to Depositors on 31st March, 1905, and of the Receipts, Interest, and Disbursements during the year ended 31st March, 1906, etc. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 80.]

PROBATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Probation System as at present in force in the United States of America [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Work and Discharges in Chatham Dockyard.

Mr. E. H. LAMB (Rochester): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will appoint a Committee, similar to the one recently appointed for Woolwich Arsenal by the Secretary of State for War, to consider and report upon how far the work of Chatham Dockyard can be kept more regular, so as to keep the machinery more fully employed and prevent frequent discharges of workmen.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The programme of work for each year is arranged by professional officers of great experience with the object of avoiding discharges as far as possible, and the Admiralty do not consider that such a committee as that suggested by the hon. Member would be able to improve in any way upon the existing arrangements.

Royal Irish Constabulary.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of the Royal Irish Constabulary on active service in Ireland,

and the cost, and the number of pensioners, and the cost; and whether a reduction of the force is in contemplation.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estimates for the coming year provide for a force of 9,969, including officers, at a net cost of £915,034. The present number of pensions is 7,980, and the cost £391,965. The numbers of the Royal Irish Constabulary have since 1903 been reduced by 1,230, including officers. The question of further reducing the force, in accordance with the plan adopted by the late Government, has been before the Irish Government for some time, but no decision has yet been arrived at.

State of the Congo.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will ask the Belgian Government when the Commission appointed to report upon the Law affecting the Congo is likely to present its Report; and whether he will, at the same time, intimate to the Belgian Government that His Majesty's Government is not disposed to wait indefinitely for a decision in the matter.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer given on the 12th instant to the hon. Member for the Tottenham Division of Middlesex.†

Canada and the Agenda for the Colonial Conference.

Mr. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what were the terms of the Secretary of State's cablegram to the Governor-General of Canada on 25th September last, relative to subjects for discussion at the Colonial Conference, and the Governor-General's reply thereto; whether these despatches have been laid before the Canadian Parliament; and, if so, will he say why they have been omitted from the official correspondence presented to this House.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State's telegram of the 25th September was as follows: "Matter most urgent. When may reply be expected to my despatch 22nd February, Colonial Conference, paragraph 5." The despatch is printed on pages 3–4 of [Cd. 2975.] The Governor-General's reply, dated 28th September, was as follows: "In answer to your telegram of 25th September, responsible Ministers do not desire at the present time to present any new subject for discussion at Colonial Conference." The Papers laid before the Dominion Parliament respecting the Colonial Conference have not yet been received at the Colonial Office. It did not appear to be necessary to include the telegrams quoted above in the Papers laid before Parliament, in view of the terms of paragraph 2 of the Secretary of State's despatch in [Cd. 3337].

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether any reply has been received to the Secretary of State's cablegram to the Governor-General of Canada, of 21st January last, asking for the names of the Ministers and staff who would attend the Colonial Conference; and, if so, will he give the names of these gentlemen.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I refer the hon. Member to my Answer to the hon. Member for the Central Division of Sheffield on the 18th of February.‡

Luncheon Interval in the Board of Works Office, Dublin.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will ask the Board of Works, Dublin, to explain how it is that the Secretary has instructed an ex-policeman to take the time each member of the staff returns from lunch, with the object of allowing only thirty minutes for the purpose; and, considering that this policy is not adopted by any office in the vicinity of Merrion Street, and that it is impossible to expect anyone situated as the staff of the Board of Works are, to go to an outside restaurant to obtain a lunch and return in half-an-hour, will he see that this practice advocated by the Secretary is discontinued.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The reference is no doubt to a temporary messenger in the department who has had meritorious service in the Royal Irish

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 1419–20.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 544.

Constabulary. By order of the Board this officer takes the time at which each member of the staff returns from lunch. The interval of thirty minutes is that usually allowed throughout the public service.

Erection of Houses at Hampton Court—Contractors and the Fair Wages Clause.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that the firm of contractors who are carrying out the work required in the erection of two houses in the Home Park, Hampton Court, do not pay the standard rate of wage or observe the working rules of the district; and whether he will take steps to compel this firm to observe the fair wages clause.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) I am informed that the wages paid by the builders referred to conform to the fair wages Resolution of the House of Commons, and are at the "rates generally accepted as current for competent workmen" in the district. I am not aware what the "working rules" are, nor am I empowered to interfere on the matter of rules unless in the case of sub-letting.

Publication of Attendances of Members of County Councils.

MR. W. T. WILSON: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is the duty of a clerk to a county council to supply to an elector a record of the attendances of a member or members at the meetings of a county council; and whether any charge is made when such a record is supplied.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am not aware of any legal obligation on the clerk of a county council to supply this information to an elector.

Sentence on Driver Gourlay.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the sentence of five months imprisonment passed on driver Gourlay at Edinburgh upon Tuesday last in connection with the Arbroath disaster; and whether, in view of the absence of unanimity among the jury and their recommendation of leniency, the extenuating circumstances under which the accident took place and the advanced age of Gourlay, he will consider the advisability of revising or remitting the sentence.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) My attention has been called to this matter, and it is receiving consideration.

Sale of the Bunnahow Estate County Galway.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Commissioners has been directed to the circumstances attending the sale of the grass lands of Bunnahow, Oranmore, county Galway, formerly in possession of Mr. Robert Thomas Lattery, of London; whether he is aware that Mr. Lattery surrendered these lands in the interest of the small uneconomic holders of land in the neighbourhood of Gilrae; could he say if any attempt was made to buy up these lands by outsiders to the exclusion of the small occupiers; and, having regard to the peace and good order of the district, would he advise the Commissioners to take such steps as may be necessary to see that these small occupiers are provided for.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The lands in question have been offered for sale to the Estates Commissioners, who have had them inspected, and have informed the owner of the price they are prepared to give. A large number of small tenants in the neighbourhood have applied to the Commissioners for holdings on the property, and their applications will receive full consideration in the event of the property being acquired.

Sale of the Lisanoner Ranch Estates, County Cavan.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will state whether the estate of Joseph Bennet, Little Bawnboy, county Cavan, known as Lisanoner Ranch, has yet been dealt with by the Estates Commissioners; and how many evicted tenants is it proposed to put upon this untenanted land.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Land Judge has notified to the Estates Commissioners that he is prepared to accept the price which they provisionally offered for this property, and the Commissioners have accordingly prepared a scheme for the re-sale of the estate in fourteen parcels, nine of which are for evicted tenants. This scheme has been referred to an inspector with the object of obtaining from the selected persons undertakings for purchase.

Father Dolphin and the Principal of Doohoma National School.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Father Dolphin, P.P., manager of Doohoma national school, about four years ago compelled Mr. Cryan and other teachers in his parish to write to the local Press renouncing the teacher's organisation; and whether there is anything in their agreement which demands such action; and, if not, will they be protected from dismissal should they choose to associate themselves with such an association.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing the manager of Doohoma national school ordered the key to be taken from the principal, Mr. Cryan, on the 25th instant, and the children turned out of school, he can state whether the National Commissioners have been requested to sanction the new appointment; and whether a new agreement detailing terms of service required by the Commissioners' rules has been perfected between the manager and the teacher.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Father Dolphin, P.P., manager of Doohoma national school, county Mayo, gave three months' notice of dismissal to Mr. Cryan, principal teacher; that, on the charges being investigated by the bishop, the dismissal was withdrawn on the 6th ult.; that on the 21st ult. the manager wrote to Mr. Cryan demanding the key of the school, and, on refusal, sent his curate on the 25th inst. forcibly to evict the principal, when Mr. Cryan was assaulted, the children ordered out of the school, and the key taken; and whether, seeing that on the following morning the key of the school was returned to Mr. Cryan, who continues to teach as principal, he will order an inquiry into the whole case, or the dismissal of the manager, with the view of protecting national school teachers from managers of schools who are outside the control of any authority.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they have no official information upon the subject of these Questions.

Irish Constabulary and Dublin Metropolitan Police Recruits.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can state the number of Royal Irish Constabulary and Dublin Metropolitan Police recruits that have been drawn from Clare, Leitrim, Galway, and Tipperary; how many, if any, are members of the United Irish League; and whether, in view of the recent remarks made by Judges of Assizes in these counties, he will consider the advisability of discontinuing recruiting for either of these forces in the counties named.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The number of recruits now in training who have been drawn from the counties named is, in the case of the Royal Irish Constabulary, forty-seven, and, in the case of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, four. The police authorities have no information as to whether these men were members of the United Irish League or of any other political body. The regulations do not prohibit the admission of such persons. There is no intention of limiting the area from which police recruits are drawn.

RAILWAYS (CONTRACTS) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.), in moving the Second Reading of the Railways (Contracts) Bill, apologised to hon. Members for the Bill's not being in their hands at an earlier date, which, he said, was due to the fact that he was not acquainted with the process of bringing in private Members' Bills. The House would see that it was a modest measure, and was of a kind which ought to be brought in by a private Member on a Friday afternoon. It was not an heroic measure, nor did it propose a great change. He did not imagine it would entitle him to much glory, nor did he hope that a statue would be erected in his honour at all the principal railway stations on account of it. On the other hand, it ought not to excite much opposition. He saw there was no objection to it even by the Member for the City of London, who generally objected to a measure which was brought forward on a Friday. In introducing the Bill he thought he ought to say something on the question of law, and he had very great diffidence in approaching questions of that kind. The Bill affected the law as to carriers. There were three classes of carriers—carriers without hire, private carriers and common carriers. Carriers without hire were responsible for loss through gross negligence; private carriers also were responsible for loss arising through neglect; while common carriers were responsible for every kind of loss, except that resulting from act of God or the King's enemies. He need not deal with gratuitous carriers, except to point out that even those who carried gratuitously for others were liable to pay compensation for gross negligence. In 1830, when the Carriers Act was passed, many common carriers tried to limit their liability by publishing notices of conditions which the Law Courts said were unfair and unjust. That Act was followed up by the Railway and Canal Traffic Acts of 1854 and 1894, and under them the railway companies were by law to be regarded as common carriers. At the same time they were able to contract themselves out of their liability as common carriers. At present, under the sanction of Parliament, they were allowed to charge two rates. The first was the ordinary rate, which made them common carriers, and under which they were liable for every loss, except those occasioned by act of God or by the King's enemies. Those two exceptions were not of much practical importance in this country. The idea of danger from the King's enemies, so long as the Government kept up the Navy, was not to be apprehended. Also an Act of God under our climatic conditions was not such that they need have any fear of. He noticed, however, that a claim was made the other day on the ground that a motor-omnibus skidded on a greasy road, which was said to be an act of God. The Lord Chief Justice said it could not be considered to be an act of God, but it was open to the jury to find a verdict for the plaintiff if there was negligent driving. There was also an owner's risk rate, and the question was whether the companies at the present moment, under the rates they could levy, were in an equitable condition. The Bill really dealt with the owner's risk rate, which limited the railway companies' liability as common carriers to cases of wilful misconduct, but he proposed under the Bill to make them liable for gross negligence as well. It might be said that that was dealing with contracts in an arbitrary fashion, and violated what was called the sanctity of contracts; but he would point out that railway companies were in a different position from an ordinary individual, as they enjoyed a monopoly granted by Parliament, which gave them an arbitrary position and enabled them to force contracts upon people. The conditions laid down by Act of Parliament in regard to those special contracts, and contracting out under the Common Carriers Act, were limited to cases which could be proved to be just and reasonable. He asked was it just and reasonable that a company should be able to exonerate themselves from acts caused by gross negligence on the part of their own servants? He did not think anyone would say that was a principle that ought to be enforced. The question of wilful misconduct was very difficult to prove or to deal with. Goods sent at owner's risk might be treated in a way that was grossly negligent, although there was no wilful misconduct. Damage done by a railway company's servants through gross negligence might be quite as injurious as if it were caused by wilful misconduct. He did not wish to bring before the House specific cases based on private information, because it would be difficult to discuss their merits. He would, however, take complaints laid by the Midlands Chamber of Commerce against certain railway companies, in which it was contended that the latter since 1902 had been very arbitrary in their proceedings with regard to damage to goods carried at owner's risk rates, and that traders were not treated as they should be. The railway companies replied that of the eleven cases brought forward three had reference to explosives for which they could not be expected to pay compensation, because they were carried at owner's risk. In one case, however, some cartridges were left out in the rain all night without covering. Some blunders were worse than crimes, and he said that to leave such goods out all night was gross negligence, and equally injurious as if there had been wilful misconduct. The railway companies said that traders ought not to grumble, because, after all, there were two rates—the ordinary and the owner's risk rates—and they could choose between them. But, as a matter of fact, traders had not, in certain cases, got the choice, in consequence of the keen competition existing. One case struck his attention, and that had reference to the sending of flowers from Glasgow to London. There was an extremely small difference between the two rates, but, flowers being a perishable commodity, it was essential that under stress of competition they should be got to the market early. The railway companies pointed out that a good deal of delay and injury was caused by the way in which traders sent their goods, and, no doubt, they had some ground for that complaint. He might take the case of Sandown. If the precise locality was not specified a sporting porter might send the goods to the place where races were held, while a consumptive porter would send them to Sandown, Isle of Wight. The trader, under those circumstances, must risk the idiosyncracies of the railway porters. The railway companies, he was informed, had added greatly to the number of articles which must be sent at owner's risk. Therefore, the traders were unable, in more cases than ever, to obtain compensation unless they could prove wilful misconduct. Since 1902 there had been a Joint Claims Committee to deal with claims, and cases were not considered on their merits. The companies had by combining done away with that competition which in the old days used to give some protection against arbitrary action. The companies objected to an amendment of the law in this respect. A number of substitutes for "wilful misconduct," or "gross negligence," had been proposed, but not being a lawyer he was not concerned about words. The railway companies objected to "culpable negligence," and the words "negligence of a serious character" had been suggested; but he was not caring about the form of words so long as the principle of the Bill was made manifest. Any form of words which would carry out the principle would be acceptable to him. He maintained that it was not just and reasonable to exclude gross negligence from the sphere of liability. He hoped that the House had been able to follow, to some extent, the case he had brought forward, and would give the Bill a Second Reading and send it to the Grand Committee on Trade. The Bill was not ambitious. It was brought in in the interests of traders and of the railway companies of the country. He had tried to be strictly impartial. Of course he recognised that traders never would be satisfied with rates. No one ever was satisfied with rates of any sort or taxes. He would be glad, however, if his proposals conduced to a more friendly and sociable feeling between traders and the great carrying companies. For the benefit of all it was essential to remove from the minds of the traders the suspicion that the railway companies were treating them unreasonably. He begged to move.

*Mr. HOOPER (Dudley), in seconding the Motion, said that the first thing the House had a right to ask was that the promotion of the Bill should state the exact grievance, explain the proposed remedy, and say to what extent the trading community of the country affirmed the grievance and approved the remedy. The grievance was that in regard to merchandise carried at owner's risk the railway companies were relieved from liability for damage or detention, except it was proved that either arose from "wilful misconduct" on the part of the companies' servants. The traders said that it was practically impossible to prove that even though private detectives were sent with each consignment of goods, because, even though they might witness acts of negligence they could not diagnose the porter's mind and prove the motive controlling his actions. The railway companies, therefore, were practically immune from all liability except in a few isolated cases, no matter how careless their servants might be. Traders affirmed under those circumstances that to throw upon them the onus of proving "wilful misconduct" was harsh, unreasonable, and unfair. That shortly was the grievance. As to the remedy, they asked the House by this Bill to approve what he admitted was an important principle—that all railway companies in the handling of merchandise in course of transit should be responsible for acts of gross carelessness on the part of their servants; and that they should not have the power, under any circumstances, to contract themselves out of that obligation. The traders submitted that railway companies had had granted to them, from time to time, great privileges; that they had practically a monopoly of transit, and held in their hands the trade life of the country. They contended that with those privileges there were allied certain obligations on the part of the railway companies, one of which was that in the handling of traders' goods they should exercise reasonable care, and that power to contract out of that obligation ought to be refused. The practical effect of the Bill, if passed, would be that in the owner's risk contracts, the words "wilful misconduct" would be eliminated, and in their stead would be substituted "gross negligence." The benefit to traders of that would be this. At the present moment when a trader brought a claim in a Court of law the Judge would not allow the case to go before a jury unless wilful misconduct could be proved. It was practically impossible to prove that and in consequence it was almost impossible to get a case before a jury. If, on the other hand, the railway company were liable for acts of gross negligence, then it would follow that where an act could be proved from which it could be reasonably inferred that there had been gross negligence, the Judge would be bound to let the case go to a jury, and it would be for the jury to determine whether upon the facts proved gross negligence had been committed. He would pray in aid of that contention the Report of the Departmental Committee (appointed by the late Government) which sat to consider the fruit industry and issued its Report in 1905. That Committee took a great mass of evidence from the railway companies on the one hand, and the traders on the other, and among the many questions submitted to them for consideration was the question of the owner's risk contract with the "wilful misconduct" clause. In paragraph 64 of their Report the Committee stated—

> "That the exemption of a company from liability unless 'wilful misconduct' is proved is too stringent a condition, for in hardly any case would it be possible for a consignee to obtain the necessary evidence, as that would have to be derived from the servants of the company itself. They consider that the term 'culpable negligence' should be substituted for 'wilful misconduct.—"

The Bill practically adopted that recommendation, and he thought he would receive the assent of the House when he said that the attitude of the traders in the matter could not be considered unreasonable, when they could call in aid the Report of an impartial tribunal which made that recommendation after hearing evidence both from the railway companies and from the traders. He thought he would be able to shew, by overwhelming evidence, that the traders affirmed the grievance and approved the remedy. No less than thirty-nine chambers of commerce in all parts of the country, including those of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Aberdeen, and his own constituency Dudley—representing almost all the important industrial centres of the country—had given their recognition to the principle of the Bill. In addition to that, on the 13th of October last a conference was held, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, of representatives of the chambers of commerce of the United Kingdom, for the purpose of considering the grievance and its remedy. At that conference 150 representatives of the trade of the country met, at a great sacrifice of time and money, and gave unanimous expression to the widespread nature of the grievance, and approved the remedy now before the House. Furthermore, the Associated Chambers of Commerce last week held their annual meeting under the presidency of his hon. friend the Member for the Rotherham Division of Yorkshire. They represented about 100 chambers of commerce, and spoke in no uncertain voice as to the widespread nature of the grievance, and they also approved the remedy. Further, no less than forty Chambers of Agriculture and thirty-two trade associations, including the British Iron Trade Association, and the great trade-protection societies, had approved, by resolution or otherwise, of the principle of the Bill, and had spoken of the widespread character of the grievance. The House, therefore, would agree that behind the principle of the Bill was a great volume of trade opinion. It might be asked how was it that the question had become suddenly acute, having regard to the fact that the owner's risk rate had been in use for so many years. The answer was simple. It was, that prior to 1902 the railway companies individually settled the claim of the individual trader, and that to some extent the trader had the benefit of the competition between the railway companies. The attitude of the railway companies before 1902 in regard to the payment of these claims was that while they were protected by the "wilful misconduct" clause, and were not legally liable in any case, yet where they were satisfied that gross negligence had been committed by their servants, they would acknowledge the claim of a trader and compensate him as an act of grace while denying liability. On the whole, although there might have been some grumbling here and there, that system provided a fair working basis, and generally gave satisfaction to the traders. But in 1902 the railway companies entered into a combine which had been referred to, and, as a result, had set up a Central Claims Committee. No railway was allowed to settle the claims independently, and the Central Claims Committee had insisted more strongly on the strict legal rights of the companies, and had enforced them more rigidly than before. If therefore the Bill passed into law its practical effect would be to restore the practice which obtained up to 1902, with this exception, that traders would be enabled then to claim as a right that which prior to 1902 was given as a matter of grace. It was necessary for the information of the House, in order that they might form a judgment on the issue, that he should say one or two words on the main arguments which would be used by the railway companies in support of their position. As he understood, the railway companies said they had two rates —one the company's risk rate under which they accepted responsibility, and the other the owner's risk rate. If therefore the traders did not like the conditions attaching to owner's risk rates, why did they not send their goods under the company's risk rates? On the face of it that seemed a very fair and reasonable argument; but a closer examination showed that it was fallacious. The traders said they had practically no alternative, because the companies' rate was in many cases so much higher than the owner's risk rate as to make it, owing to the exigencies of trade competition, compulsory upon them to send their goods by the lower rate, in spite of the conditions. On that point he would again refer to the Report of the Committee on the fruit industries, in paragraph 56 of which it said that the disparity existed in some cases to the extent of 50 per cent., and there were cases cited where the difference was 100 per cent. He had information from traders which showed that the difference ranged from a very small percentage up to 200 per cent. He would quote on that point the judgment of Lord Justice Lindley in the case of Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Railway *v.* Brown. Lord Justice Lindley said:—

> "In the case now before the Court the plaintiff was a fish merchant sending his fish to market, and practically he was compelled to send his goods at the lower rate. It is true he was not compelled to do so by the railway company, but it is plain that unless the plaintiff sent his fish as cheaply as he could he would be undersold in the market by his competitors in trade."

That was just the traders' contention. He desired further to state that the traders of the country viewed with increasing anxiety the action of the railway companies in saying that certain classes of goods could only be carried under the owner's risk rate, and unless the traders sent them under that rate they would not carry them at all. Another argument used by the railway companies was that if traders sent their goods at company's risk, the increased rate for freight would be in excess of their losses under the owner's risk rate, and therefore, after all, the traders were the gainers. To that the traders replied that where the company's risk rate was in excess of the owner's risk rate to an extent beyond a percentage necessary to cover claims, the company's rate was fictitious and arbitrary. He could prove that by a concrete case from the evidence and report of the Departmental Committee. In paragraph 63 they found, and indeed it was admitted by the railway companies, that 5 per cent.

added to the owner's risk rate would be a fair percentage to cover average losses for claims. Consequently hon. Members would naturally suppose that the company's risk rate would be owner's risk rate plus 5 per cent. to cover claims, but the Committee found in some cases the percentage was no less than 50 per cent. higher, which showed how arbitrary, unreasonable, and unfair the company's risk rate was. They might be asked what *quid pro quo* the traders were willing to give the railway companies for the lower rate quoted to them. It was quite fair that if the railway companies undertook to carry traders' goods at lower rates they should receive a *quid pro quo*, and the traders said they were willing to relieve the railway companies from the common law liability as carriers and from the liability for accidents if the cause of such accidents was ordinary negligence. But where the accidents were the consequence of gross negligence the railway companies ought not to ask for any relief. The distinction between ordinary and gross negligence was well understood in law, and it would be for a jury to determine whether the facts constituted gross negligence. He ought, in fairness to the railway companies, to say that they did to-day in some extreme cases pay traders' claims, although they were not legally compelled to do so under the terms of the owner's risk contracts. They paid the claims but denied liability. But the traders said they did not wish to come cap in hand and ask as a matter of grace that to which they were entitled as of right. The railway companies made the strong assertion that the owner's risk rate was a boon to the trader in that he was enabled to pack his goods less carefully and more economically than he would be enabled to do under the company's risk rate. But that fact was taken into consideration in the classification of the goods, and an increased charge was made according to the classification. Traders, therefore, could not see that it was any argument for the railway companies to say, "If you send your goods not properly packed we are entitled to be grossly negligent." While he thought it his duty to put these arguments, he rested his case upon the broad principle that the railway companies which had now practically a monopoly ought not to be allowed under any circumstances to contract themselves out of their liability for gross negligence. He thought that to allow them to do so must produce slackness in management and be detrimental to the trading community. There was one other point. Objection had been taken to the Bill on the ground that it was another piece of grandmotherly legislation, and that it did violence to the great principle of freedom of contract between adults. He admitted that principle and its importance, but the principle itself rested on the assumption that it operated in the interests of the community at large, and if it could be proved in any given circumstances that the principle clashed with the interests of the community, then to that extent the principle must give way and an exception be established. It was not necessary, however, for him to prove that the contractual relations between railway companies and traders constituted such an exception, for Parliament had already interfered in respect to these very contracts, saying to the railway companies, "Thou shalt not do this," and "thou shalt not do that." Let him sketch in a few brief sentences for the information of the House what Parliament had heretofore done. Prior to 1830 the common carriers of the day sought to limit their common law liability by issuing public notices to the effect that they would not be liable under certain conditions. So prevalent did that custom become that Parliament intervened on behalf of the traders and passed the Carriers Act of 1830, which prescribed that no such notice should be valid, but at the same time gave the carrier a right to enter into special contracts with particular traders with regard to the carriage of their goods. There were several legal decisions, and it was ultimately held in the law courts that when a railway company sent a printed set of conditions to a trader, and he received it, it amounted to a special contract, although he had not agreed thereto and had even protested. It was in consequence of those legal decisions that Parliament again intervened and passed the Railway and Canal Traffic Act of 1854, Section 7 of which governed the case to-day. That section said in effect that such contracts must not only be in writing but signed, and the conditions must be such as a Judge or a Court deemed just and reasonable. Those special contracts, the owner's risk contracts with their "wilful misconduct" clause, had been taken before the Judges, who had decided in favour of the railway company; consequently the traders had come to the House, and placed their case before it as the highest tribunal. In conclusion, he would like to say that the Bill had not been conceived in any spirit hostile to the railway companies. He recognised that railway companies were trading concerns and not philanthropic institutions. But he held say that they did not stand on the same footing as ordinary trading corporations. They had had great privileges conferred upon them by Parliament, and allied to those great privileges were great responsibilities to the community at large. He thanked the House for the patience with which they had listened to him. He had endeavoured to compress his arguments as much as possible compatible with the clear elucidation of the case, and he now begged to second the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said he recognised the spirit in which the mover and seconder of the Bill had advocated its acceptance by the House, and he was glad to note the concluding words of the speech of the hon. Member for Dudley, in which he disclaimed any special hostility to the railway companies. He felt also that, in rising to state the case of the railway companies, he had to appeal to the known generosity of the House towards the advocates of unpopular causes. He did not plead guilty to having a deservedly unpopular cause, but he had to recognise what had happened recently in the House when anything was demanded by the trade unions or by the chambers of commerce as against the railways. Although chambers of commerce were useful and representative bodies, yet it must be borne in mind that for the purposes of this dispute they were parties to the litigation and could not be treated as umpires, and what they said should not be taken as the last word on the subject. The findings of the chambers of commerce were very different from what they might have been if the railway companies had attended their meetings, and if the companies' voting power had been in proportion to the volume of their capital. Probably, if that had been the case, the verdict might have gone the other way. As was very well known, it had been found almost impossible to organise any shareholders so as to establish their political or economic power in anything like proportion to the tremendous interests they represented. But, after all, their money was risked in an industry, and the shareholder in a railway was entitled to at least as much consideration as all other traders whose money was risked for the benefit of the general community. Another thing was, that if it was to be a question of presuming gross negligence, and should this Bill pass it would nearly amount to presumption in some cases, where there was no evidence of negligence, it was to be borne in mind that the servants of railway companies were not more addicted to habits of gross negligence than the servants of anybody else. There was no greater reason for presuming gross negligence in their case than in that of others. He hoped that, with that initial disclaimer or declaration, he might be permitted to say what the railway companies conceived to be their case. The traders should not be allowed to be judges in their own cause. The hon. Member for Dudley had made the important admission that even at the present time, notwithstanding the existence of the Joint Claims Committee, the railway companies in a very large number of cases did stop short of insisting on the exaction of their full rights, and that they did pay in respect of claims which, under the strict terms of the owner's risk clause, they might very justly and legally repudiate. He was glad of that admission. If it was to be a question that freedom of contract must go, let them remember that railway companies themselves did not enjoy the rights of free contract. A railway company was not entitled to say, "We will get from you all the rates we can," because they were limited in respect of the amount they could take, for the reason that the State imposed a maximum rate. Again, the railway companies were obliged to charge the same rate to all traders, and could not give preference to one over another. In those initial and most important respects railway companies had been deprived of the right of entering into what was called free contract. It was not on the basis of free contract, however, that they were going to argue the question. There were other considerations which appeared to him to be the true reason why, if at all, the House should interfere. It had been attempted to be argued that owner's risk terms were so favourable to traders, or rather were so wide apart from the carriers' risk terms, that the higher rate paid under the carriers' risk terms was not really a true alternative at all. The hon. Member for Dudley had quoted Lord Justice Lindley, but those who read the virile observations of Lord Bramwell in the same case would see how he, at all events, brushed aside that kind of argument. The lower rate terms, which constituted the owner's risk clause, could not at one and the same time be so intolerably unjust as to demand a remedy from the House, and also be so good that they put the alternative in the shade and altogether out of sight. If it was to be argued as a case of two alternatives, one of which might be described as altogether out of sight, and therefore of no use at all to the parties, the companies were entitled to ask which was to be the datum line? Was this a Bill to get rid by a side wind, and without avowing its real purpose, of the maximum rate created by Parliament with such gigantic labour and with the exercise of such splendid skill and judicial faculty as was involved in the inquiries of 1888 and 1892? Which was to be the datum line? It must be borne in mind that the carriers' risk rate was admittedly less than the maximum rate in practically every case, and that maximum rate was fixed, after very close inquiry by Parliament, so recently as fourteen years ago. The position was that, starting from that datum line, in the great majority of cases the railway companies had given traders the alternative of taking owner's risk rates at a diminution from the rate in their favour greater than the diminution which represented the cost of insurance. Therefore the trader was really in a position, under the owner's risk contract, even if he took the whole of the risk of the company's "gross negligence," of having got more into his pocket than the burden of insuring against that "gross negligence" would lay upon him. The traders contended that competition among themselves destroyed the value of the alternative rate. But how did it operate to do so? It was so good that it tempted them to keep the money in their pocket, and shirk the obligation of insurance. The result was that they did not insure; yet they came to the House and after having received from the companies the money for the premium on that insurance, claimed to be allowed to keep that money in their pockets, and still to be in the position that they would have occupied if they had effected the insurance. That was how the companies could put the case if they chose to take the extreme point of view. What the railway companies feared was the great ambiguity of the words "gross negligence." The President of the Board of Trade, being the acute man they knew him to be, was quick to seize upon that difficulty at the interview he was kind enough to give to the railway companies in one of the committee rooms of the House. As he had said, there was no necessary presumption that railway servants were more likely to be guilty of negligence than anybody else. Parliament ought not to encourage the idea that the disappointment of a trader, or the amount of damage which he suffered, was the necessary measure of the negligence of which anyone had been guilty. He could understand that the trader who sent by rail cut flowers, or strawberries or season fruit, and who lost his market by delay, would be very indignant, but his indignation was not of itself evidence, although it was indignation with which they all sympathised. They all wanted to get their goods sent at as low rates at possible and without delay, but the indignation felt when one was disappointed could not be accepted as conclusive evidence of negligence, or of anything like gross negligence by anybody. He had looked through the list of eleven cases which had been referred to, and he found that except in one or two of them there was practically no evidence available at all. In all those cases, however, it was the fact that such evidence as there was must be in the possession of the railway company itself. That was the direction, if he might respectfully point it out, where possibly something in the nature of a remedy might be found, if they looked at the consequences which flowed from that necessary state of things. He did not known what would result if the railway companies were to say that they would accept the provisions of the Bill. It must be borne in mind that the Bill, not content with abolishing the supposed freedom of contract, made it impossible for the railway companies to say, "If you do not like these conditions we will offer you others." It closed the door to any alteration at the instance of the railway companies themselves. If they withdrew the owner's risk rate, that would be an unreasonable interfering with the rates, which would bring them under the terms of the Railway and Canal Commission Act. Again, there was a similar provision against anything like altering the amount to be paid under the owner's risk rates. That made it very difficult for the railway companies to say that they would on any terms agree to the Bill. Of course it was obvious that they must leave themselves, as he had begun by saying, to the generosity of the House. He felt quite certain that they were safe in leaving themselves to the justice of the House; and anybody must be able to see that there were possible conditions upon which the issue might be equitably settled. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade had himself said that it ought to be possible to find a better form of words than "gross negligence." There were other possible alternatives which he could only hint at. In truth, he thought it was better perhaps not to look at the past, for when traders said that they had suffered the railway companies replied that they had been very well paid for it. The traders, however, denied that, and inquiry into that part of the subject had now become unprofitable. There was a higher position altogether to be taken up, and that was, what did public policy require? He could quite conceive its being said, and very cogently advocated, though perhaps not in any legal sense, but still in a sense which interested legislators, that it was not in accordance with public policy that any persons in the realm should be allowed to contract themselves out of the consequences of their gross negligence. That was what they might call the extreme case at one end of the scale. The hon. Member for Dudley had talked about the unreasonable requirements of the companies about packing. That was at the other end of the scale. He did not think it would be contended that the House should artifically assist those who by imperfect packing of their goods subjected railway servants all along the line, as well as the servants of the consignees and the carting agents, to exceptional temptations. That was another object which Parliament ought not to make the subject of a special legislative effort. The railway companies submitted themselves in all respects to the sense of justice which animated the House, and they asked hon. Members to remember that although the chambers of commerce had demanded this reform there were many reasons why it should not be conceded in the way the Bill had been formulated. Although it might be true that by reason of their great wealth the railway companies were all powerful, the traders through the chambers of commerce were powerful in a way which made it practically impossible to resist their demands. After all, railway companies were traders and were entitled to justice from the House. They thought it was quite possible to find some other equitable solution of the claim, and he hoped the President of the Board of Trade would give them the assistance of his department and experience in finding that solution.

*Mr. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) supported the Second Reading of the Bill. They had heard the case of the traders presented by the mover of the Bill and its supporter, and the case of the railway companies presented by the right hon. Gentleman opposite with all the acumen and legal training which he possessed and in his position as a railway director. The discussion brought back old memories. The House could not be better employed on a Friday afternoon than in quietly and moderately discussing such a matter. Were the great railway systems of the country manned and worked in a manner which tended to promote the social welfare of the community? The railway companies stood in an entirely exceptional position, and that fact should never be forgotten. It had been forgotten too much in the past. Every railway company was the creation of Parliament, and had to come to the House for its powers. He had been looking into the record of the old Committees, and he found that Mr. Gladstone was Chairman of one great Railway Committee in 1844 which inquired into the position of the railway companies. The Act of 1844, issued from the Report of that Committee, and the preamble of that Act ran—

> "Whereas it is expedient that the concessions of new lines of railways should be subject to such conditions as are hereinafter contained for the benefit of the public."

They had heard a good deal about traders, but he wanted to speak solely from the point of view of the public. The right hon. Member for the Hallam Division had said that traders should not be the judges in their own case. That was not exactly the position, because the House of Commons were the judges. The situation reminded him of what happened in 1892, when railway companies made an extraordinary abuse of their powers. A Committee was appointed, and in 1894 they presented a very strong Report to the House. They investigated the whole question of the manner in which railway companies had exercised the powers given them by the Acts of 1891 and 1892. Any one who read through that Report would conclude that the railway companies were then tried and found wanting. Then, as to-day, it was found that a joint committee of railway managers had been formed to promote concerted action by those great corporations, and thus to vitiate the protection given to the public by each case being decided on its own merits. The right hon. Member for the Hallam Division had said that the shareholders were badly organised, and could not present their case; but railway boards and their railway associations presented an example of most complete and powerful trade unionism. The joint committee of railway managers in 1891 arrived at certain conditions which were not disclosed when the Act of 1892 was passed, and had they been disclosed, that Act would have been framed in quite a different way. The Select Committee in 1893 reported that—

> "In view, however, of the action of the railway companies, and of the alarms felt by traders as to the future, they are of opinion that matters cannot be left as they now are, and that some greater security should be provided against unreasonable increases of rates within the maximum charges fixed by recent Acts of Parliament as the minimum protection to which traders are entitled. Your Committee are also of opinion that traders should be protected against the imposition of unreasonable conditions of transport on risk notes and otherwise."

Very little had been done since 1893—during the last fourteen years—and therefore he welcomed this Bill as an instalment. It must be borne in mind that in 1865 a Royal Commission, of which the then Duke of Devonshire was head, laid down that it was the right and duty of Parliament whenever a railway company applied for increased powers to see how far it had exercised the powers it already possessed. They all acknowledged that railway companies had rights, but those rights were founded on Acts of Parliament in which certain conditions were implied and imposed, and the House must see that they were observed in a reasonable manner. In 1882 the then President of the Board of Trade put some foolish stipulations into an Act of Parliament in regard to electric lighting which delayed the development of electric lighting in this country for years. He did not wish to see unreasonable restrictions, but he held that in the matter of railways they should watch very jealously the powers which were given by Parliament and see that the conditions under which they were granted were carefully fulfilled. He gathered from the concluding sentences of the speech of the right hon. Member for the Hallam Division that there was a possibility of a *modus vivendi*. If they went to a division he would support the Second Reading, although he gathered from the promoters that they were not wedded to any particular form of words. If, however, some other way of carrying out the main purpose and object of the Bill could be found, he for one would support it. He hoped they would hear the view of the President of the Board of Trade on the question as speaking for the Government.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said that in view of the moderation with which the hon. Members who moved and seconded the Bill had expressed themselves it should not be impossible for the railway companies and the traders to come together and discover some *modus vivendi*. The object of all who represented the railway companies should be to remove suspicion from the minds of those who had dealings with them. He hoped that as time went on they would be able to prove to the House that their great object was to be of use to the community, while at the same time acting fairly to those who had entrusted them with the spending of their money. While there were two rates—one at owner's risk and the other at company's risk—the owner's risk rate was entirely voluntary. That fact was referred to by the hon. Member for Dudley, who said, "Yes, it is perfectly true that it is voluntary, but you must remember that there now sits a powerful board in London, and that they are, practically speaking, too much for the small trader who finds fault with his voluntary rate." In answer to that he would point out that in the last six months in connection with the company which he had the honour to represent there were over 3,000 claims in regard to owners' risk contracts, and only one was for over £50. county court jurisdiction now extended to cases where the amount involved was £100, so that the means of redress open to the owner who thought he was aggrieved owing to the negligent handling of his goods was cheap. The trader could take his case to the county court, and the fact that the railway companies had a joint committee in London did not really affect him at all. He was sorry that the right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division had gone back forty years to look for the misdeeds of railway companies. Would it be impossible in his own career to discover some little acts which could not be defended ?

*Mr. ELLIS said the Committee of 1893 reported the misdeeds of 1892–3.

Colonel LOCKWOOD said he thought the right hon. Gentleman went back to 1865. He honestly confessed that blameless as he looked upon himself now, he would be sorry to go back forty years to the salad days of youth, and say that he never did anything wrong. Railway companies when they started their career did exercise powers which they would not attempt to exercise now in view of the present temper of the House of Commons. If these contracts were to be altered—and it was a very good thing that it was in the power of the House to alter and vary them—the House ought to remember the liabilities of the railway companies under their present contracts, and view the contracts in the light of modern times. They surely would not ask that all the onus should be put on the company and none on the trader. He could not explain that to the House better than in the words of Sir Charles Owens, a member of the deputation to the President of the Board of Trade. He said—

> "We have said to the traders, if you will relieve us, the railway companies, of liabilities A, B, C, and D, we, on the other hand, will reduce your rates by the amount X. That is a business proposition. But I venture to suggest it is the reverse of a business proposition if the trader brings in a Bill to the House and suggests that while the rate is still to be reduced by X, the liabilities A, B, C, and D, or one of them, is to be transferred back from the shoulders of the trader to the shoulders of the railway company. Surely, in common justice, if a trader wishes to retire from an absolutely voluntary contract, both parties to that contract should be left free to enter into another contract, but one party to that contract should not be relieved of obligations on the one hand, while they remain on the shoulders of the company on the other."

That was what the companies felt. In regard to gross or wilful negligence, legal definitions had been given to them, but it seemed to him open to doubt whether it could be accurately defined. Words had been suggested to the Board of Trade, and in his reply the President of the Board would no doubt state whether or not his advisers thought those words sufficient. If they were sufficient, something would be gained upon which an understanding could be arrived at between the traders and the railway companies.

*Mr. BEALE (Ayrshire, S.) said he would speak on the question from the point of view of a lawyer. He represented a large constituency in which there were many traders who took one side of the question, and there were others who were interested on the other side as railway proprietors. Therefore, his interest in the question was to help in finding, if possible, a way out of the difficulty with which they were faced. The proposition in the Bill was practically to substitute "gross negligence" for "wilful misconduct" in the present contract notes employed by the railway companies. He was quite alive to the difficulty in which hon. Gentlemen opposite who represented the railway companies were placed by the necessity which had arisen for the introduction of a definition of "gross negligence." It appeared to him that the railway companies had

had it in their power to avoid the necessity of any such definition at all, and yet to meet the reasonable requirements of traders who had brought forward this Bill, for the railway companies had got it declared in the Courts that a contract which in terms exonerated them from everything except "wilful misconduct" was a lawful contract which would be upheld. He believed the railway companies were very fortunate in getting such decisions. He thought it was brought about by a certain straining of the Act on the part of the Courts. If the railway companies had taken a liberal view and held that a line between "wilful misconduct" and "gross negligence" ought not to be drawn so as to exclude things which were reasonably and popularly called gross negligence, the House would not have heard of this Bill. He did not blame railway managers for protecting the interests of the companies when claims were made which could not always be justified, but he thought when they took every objection they could they threw away a grand opportunity of avoiding the difficulties of which this Bill attempted the solution. The traders who supported the Bill were really asking nothing more than that the intention of the Act of 1854 should be made a reality. Before the passing of that Act the law was to be found in the works of several writers, of whom the most noted was Mr. Story. In his definition of the law he said—

> "Carriers cannot by special notice exempt themselves from responsibility for gross negligence or fraud, or by demanding exorbitant rates compel the owner to yield to unjust terms."

After the Act of 1854 was passed its intention was very fully discussed in the House of Lords in the North Staffordshire case. The Judges were summoned to state their opinions to the House of Lords. He would read some of the statements which were made as to the meaning and intention oft he Act. Mr. Justice Crompton said—

> "Carriers cannot say we will not carry your goods at all unless you pay insurance, or agree that we are not to be responsible whatever negligence we may be guilty of, either by not providing proper carriages or by gross neglect or default of our servants."

Baron Martin said—

> "The condition could not mean that the company should not be under the obligation to avoid actual negligence or misfeasance, as that would be contrary to the enactment."

Chief Justice Cockburn expressed an opinion to exactly the same effect. He believed that this Bill would never have been introduced if it had not been that the railway companies had attempted to draw a line to exonerate themselves from liability in case of gross negligence on the part of their employees. The offer of alternative rates at company's risk had no doubt been held in many cases under the then circumstances to remove the injustice done to traders. The question always arose as to what was a reasonable alternative rate under the circumstances and that was the question now. As a matter of fact many people had gone into business and had invested a large amount of capital on the strength of these low rates at owner's risk being maintained, and if they were not to be continued, or something like them, those people would be unable to carry on their business. He hoped that the Bill would become law, because it was reasonably required on the part of traders, and he could not see that it would do injustice to the railway companies. Any definitions required on their behalf could be suggested in Committee.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said he did not desire to prolong the debate unnecessarily, but he would like, on behalf of those whom he represented, to say that the agricultural community regarded this measure as of very great importance to them. It was idle to talk about freedom of contract in this regard. It had been pointed out by several hon. Gentlemen that the railway companies owed their very existence to the action of Parliament, which had always exercised a certain control over the arrangements and contracts which they made with their customers. The only desire of those who promoted the Bill was to see that fair terms were given to traders, and specially to agriculturists who were compelled to employ the great railway companies as carriers of their goods. It seemed to him, looking at the question not from a technical or legal point of view, but as a practical man, that it was monstrous that the railway companies should be able to contract themselves out of their responsibility for the gross negligence of those whom they employed; and he hoped, therefore, that the Bill would be given a Second Reading and any necessary Amendments of details could be made in Committee upstairs. It was a matter of special importance to the agricultural community, because they dealt in perishable articles which had to be sent to market by rail. Allusion had been made in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the fruit growing industry. Those who were familiar with that trade knew that the men engaged in it attached considerable importance to the Bill. The most modern and enterprising farmers in the country who made their living by consigning their produce, such as milk and fruit, by rail to market were keenly interested in the Bill, which had been supported in a very moderate and reasonable spirit; and he hoped that the House would give it a Second Reading so that the legal questions involved could be calmly discussed in Committee in a satisfactory way.

*Mr. BRIGHT (Oldham) said that some time ago certain railway companies were under the temptation, for the sake of gaining traffic from competitors, to allow to large traders claims for damages almost as if their goods had been forwarded under carrier's risk instead of under owner's risk. That was done for the larger traders, whom they wanted to propitiate, but not for the smaller, who were thus at a disadvantge. The Committee of managers who considered the matter had behaved not ungenerously to the traders, and had shown themselves to be perfectly ready in many cases, even where gross negligence was not proved, to meet the traders in the demands that they had made.

*Mr. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said that his constituents, who consisted largely of agriculturists, miners and working men, hundreds of whom were members of co-operative societies, would, he knew, desire him to support this Bill. Co-operative societies had suffered loss by the present unfair system of railway rates on the carriage of perishable goods, and the impossibility of getting security that their perishable goods should be carried to market except in large quantities and packed in an expensive manner. But, apart from these local reasons, another matter of great importance to the country was the competition between native fruit growers and dairymen and the same class in Denmark, Belgium, and Holland. The native farmers and fruit growers believed that they were handicapped by what they considered the favouring rates and other privileges accorded by the railway companies to foreign growers and producers, as against the unfair rates demanded by the railway companies from them. Hon. Members opposite were very much in favour of protection, and he would, therefore, invite their support to the Bill for the protection of our home products, and he hoped that the system of railway rates would be revised so as to prevent the unfairness which at present prevailed. He therefore supported the Bill and hoped it would be passed into law.

Sir F. BANBURY (City of London) said that the reason for establishing the Joint Claims Committee was to see that justice was done to all classes of traders. His hon. friend the Member for Hertfordshire had talked about free contract, and the seconder of the Bill had also mentioned it, but the railway companies did not found their opposition to the Bill on any question of that sort. The railway companies themselves had not the power of entering into free contracts. They did not complain of that, but they were under an obligation to carry goods under certain conditions imposed by Parliament. The railway companies had, like other companies, to face a rise in price in the raw material necessary to them in order that they might carry on their business. Every other trader who had to encounter that rise of price put up his own price and so recouped himself, but the railway companies had to go on carrying goods without any increase of price. Again, there had been large increases of rates and taxes for which they could not recoup themselves, as the ordinary traders would, by putting up their prices, because they were under an obligation to Parliament. But the railway companies had said that they were prepared to meet the traders under certain conditions, if the traders would in their turn relieve them from certain obligations which Parliament had imposed upon them. They said, that if the traders would do that, they they would give them lower rates. Now the traders came and said they would accept the proposition that they should carry their goods at a lower rate, but they would not accept the other terms which the railway companies proposed. The hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill said it would be impossible for the traders to do so in consequence of the keen competition now existing, and that traders who sent their goods now at owner's risk rate would suffer if they took the ordinary company's risk rate. Surely that was an argument against the traders and not the railway companies, because if the owner's risk rate was so onerous the traders would not have availed themselves of it. Railway companies did their best to meet the traders. The traders were the customers of the railway companies and the latter had no desire to quarrel with their customers; it would be foolish of them if they did so. The railway companies desired to be on friendly terms with their customers, but there must always be some small differences of opinion, and as his hon. friend himself had said, no rate would satisfy every trader. They must not forget the real effect of this Bill. As lately as fourteen years ago, it was enacted that the railway companies were to charge for the carriage of goods certain rates and to undertake certain liabilities to their customers. The effect of the Bill was to say that the rates which had been charged had been so excessive and had been imposed in such a manner as to render nugatory the wishes of Parliament in the bargain entered into fourteen years ago. If that was so, the proper course was to have a real and thorough inquiry. But it was now proposed to effect a change by means of a private Members' Bill introduced at the instance of an interested party. Such a course was, he thought, detrimental not only to the railway companies but to the true interests of the country. Contracts had constantly been entered into between Parliament and other people, as in this case, and if on the faith of those bargains people had invested their money in certain undertakings, the terms ought not to be altered without the consent of one party. He had never heard of cases where the companies had refused to take goods except at the owner's risk rate, and he did not think the companies had any power to do so. They were bound to accept goods if they were brought to their stations.

MR. HOOPER said that what he had stated was that it was so in a large number of cases.

SIR F. BANBURY said that if a trader presented to the railway companies for carrage goods which were not properly packed, he would say the companies were not bound to receive them. But, subject to that, the railway companies had no alternative but to accept the goods. It had been said that, after all, all the traders desired was to substitute the words "gross negligence" for the word "wilful misconduct." There had been very many different interpretations of the word "gross," and he believed one learned Judge had stated that "gross" meant nothing at all, and that it might just as well be called "negligence" as "gross negligence." In his judgment it was perfectly unfair for the traders, who had availed themselves of the generosity which the railway companies had shown in making reduced rates, to say they would accept what the railway companies gave but would not accept the conditions imposed. It had been said that there was in some cases a difference of 50 per cent. between owner's risk rate and the rate sanctioned by Parliament. That of course was a large difference, but there being so many rates (hundreds of thousands of them), he would not like to say off-hand that it was not possible for such a rate to be imposed, but he doubted it. Because, however, the railway companies had been so anxious to meet the traders and had over and over again reduced the rates, there was at the present moment in some cases a considerable divergence between the owner's risk rate and the ordinary Parliamentary rate. The promoters of the Bill desired to change the rate which Parliament fixed fourteen years ago and to substitute another rate which would make it impossible for railway companies to charge it with any chance of profit to themselves. It had been said that the railway companies, owing to the establishment of the Joint Claims Committee, did not meet claims in the way in which they did formerly. He knew, however, that on one particular railway in England during the last six months 3,000 claims had been met. In one case Messrs. Buggins & Co., of Birmingham, claimed £98 15s., the value of 11 tons 7 cwt. second-hand wire rope delayed and a portion wrongly converted. That consignment, which was despatched on September 17th, 1906, from Monument Lane Station, should have gone to William Harrison Ltd., Brownhills. About the same time another coil of cable weighing about 4 tons was being dealt with, which should have gone to the Wood Farm Colliery Co., at Bloxwich. The large coil weighing 11 tons 7 cwt., and measuring 4,800 yards was sent to Bloxwich in error, and although the firm there were only expecting one 1,500 yards long, they cut the amount they required off the large one, which they must have seen was not the one ordered by them. That had the effect of destroying the large coil for the purpose for which Messrs. Wm. Harrison Ltd, Brownhills, required it. The traffic was carried at owner's risk at a reduced rate, but in spite of that the Joint Claims Committee authorised settlement of the claim, although the company's servants' mistake in confusing the two consignments could not be considered "wilful misconduct." Such a case as that showed that although the railway companies had shown great consideration to the traders, in some instances traders showed no consideration for them. He hoped, although he knew it was a vain hope, that the Bill would not be carried, but if it was carried he trusted that the President of the Board of Trade would remember that the railway companies had as much right to consideration as the traders. The Chairman of Ways and Means on the previous night had stated that he would view with great apprehension the absence of any capital which was now put into railways; but it was not the best way to encourage the influx of new capital to take away powers which had been deliberately granted.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs) said the discussion had been of an exceedingly satisfactory character, as it had been carried on in a conciliatory spirit on both sides, and he was very glad to see the frame of mind in which the railway companies were prepared to meet the traders. He did not quarrel with the hon. Baronet who had just sat down, and he agreed it would be very disastrous from the point of view even of the trader if they were to put such conditions on railway companies that they frightened off capital from railway investments. It was in the interests of the railway companies to obtain more capital, in order to afford greater facilities, and it was also in the interests of labour and the traders of the country. In a discussion they had recently had, the reason assigned for the long hours of labour was that railways could not cope with the excessive traffic unless they had more facilities, and he quite agreed that nothing should be done to make railway investments so unremunerative that the companies could not get money for the purposes of development. The case under consideration was one in which the Board of Trade ought not to take a side. Railway companies were themselves traders, and it would be a mistake to regard them as if their interests were not identical with those of the general trade of the country. He was glad to see that the Second Reading was not contested at all. He assumed that there would be no division, and therefore the matter resolved itself into a question of the frame in which the Bill should ultimately pass through the House. For that reason his duty was a light one. He did not mean to say that the railway companies accepted the fairness or justice of some of the contentions put forward in the interests of the Bill, but they were not prepared to oppose the Second Reading. He had a very satisfactory interview the other day with the representatives of the railway companies, and he ventured to suggest to them that they had better turn their mind to the framing of some form of alternative words which would meet the justice of the case all round. He must say they met the suggestion very fairly, though he was not sure that their alternative words would be accepted. He did not think there had been any quite satisfactory discrimination between ordinary negligence and gross negligence, and the whole difficulty had arisen from that fact. He was not going to express any opinion upon so difficult and complicated a legal problem, and he had, therefore, taken the opinion of the legal advisers of the Government. All these questions could be discussed in Committee upstairs, and he did not despair, especially having regard to the admirable spirit which prevailed on both sides, of a reasonable arrangement being arrived at. He thought it possible the railway companies might be able to import words into their contracts which would cover the case. Admitting that in certain cases they ought to compensate for damage sustained even by those who sent goods at owner's risk, they contended that they ought to be the sole judges of the kind and class of cases in which the compensation should be given; but that was not a claim which the general public would admit. It must be put upon a much more satisfactory basis than that. Certain arrangements which had been made between the companies themselves would have the effect, he thought, of restraining the operation of the competitive system between the railways, and would have to be vigilantly watched. At all events, up to the present, he did not think the traders had much reason to congratulate themselves upon those arrangements.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: You mean the Joint Claims Board?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he meant the Joint Claims Board to a certain extent. He thought the traders had not much reason to congratulate themselves on the result of the appointment of that Board. It had the effect of preventing competition among certain lines of railways in the country, and it was the business of the trader to encourage competition. He understood that the Bill was accepted, so far as the Second Reading was concerned, and therefore he would suggest that the best plan would be that it should be sent to one of the Standing Committees. It was very desirable that the question should be discussed purely as one of alternatives, although it had been suggested that the railway companies had done their best to find some alternative form of words. He did not find, on the other hand, that the traders were absolutely agreed about gross negligence. The traders were quite agreed as to what they wanted, and he thought the railway companies on the whole were prepared to meet them. It had been stated, on behalf of the railway companies, that the trader wanted the railway company to pay the premium, to take the risk, and also to reduce the rate. He did not think the trader made a claim of that sort. He was willing to take ordinary risks upon his own shoulder—the ordinary case of carelessness. That was as much as the trader could be expected to take upon himself. It was rather too much to say that railway companies should exercise no discretion and no care—that they should be able to shunt a truck of fish or fruit into a siding for a couple of days through sheer carelessness, and then send it forward to market after the goods had been irretrievably damaged, without any legal liability to pay for the damage. That was an utterly inequitable doctrine. He did not say they would not pay; he was merely discussing their legal liability. Fortunately, in a good many cases they had paid compensation, but only as an act of grace. Taking their pure legal liability they would not be liable, because the case assumed was not wilful misconduct. But it would be gross negligence, and it was clearly a case in which railway companies ought to compensate the trader. The trader did not contemplate risks of that character. What he contemplated was cases of accident—the thousand little carelessnesses of an ordinary working day. Those he was prepared to take and to pay a premium on them. In the circumstances, he saw no object to be gained by prolonging the discussion. He thought the best plan would be to take the Second Reading now, and send the Bill to the Standing Committee on Trade.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's) recognised that the subject had been discussed without any exhibition of Party feeling on the part of the railway companies and the traders. If some such arrangement as had been referred to could be arrived at, he believed it would be in the interest both of the companies and of the public. As one who represented a railway company and had given some study to the subject, he thought the trader had not so much ground of complaint, at all events, as had been made out by the seconder of the Resolution. The hon. Member had admitted that the owner's risk rate was not compulsory upon the trader in theory, although he sought to make out that it was in practice. He could not see, if the owner's risk rate was not forced on traders, why they could not avail themselves of the opportunity and take the companys' risk rates, which were regulated by statute. The owner's risk rates were low rates allowed in consideration of the trader's accepting all risks for damage, except damage arising from the wilful misconduct of the companies' servants. He had heard it said that the companies' servants discriminated between goods consigned at owner's risk and those consigned at company's risk. He protested against that allegation. The men who handled the goods had no means of distinguishing between them, and they were no worse than any one else's servants. He objected to Clause 1 of the Bill, because it made a railway company liable for gross negligence, although they might have expressly contracted themselves out of that liability by voluntary agreement with the trader. Then he thought Clause 2, which prevented the company from withdrawing the present owner's risk rates, was extremely unfair. He accepted the Second Reading of the Bill, trusting that some satisfactory form of words with regard to gross negligence would be found and substituted for the clauses now in the Bill.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE intimated that the Government would be prepared to approve of any better form of words, if such a form could be found.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that if an arrangement of that sort could be made he believed the Bill could be made to satisfy both the railway companies and the traders. The railway companies reluctantly accepted the proposal, because they felt the general interest of the public had to be considered. If the proposals when placed upon the Paper carried out the view which he and his right hon. friend the Member for the Hallam Division of Sheffield thought reasonable they would have a very happy solution.

*Mr. MOND (Chester) said he would not have intervened had it not been for the observations of the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. It appeared to him that the Board of Trade was always too anxious to arrive at a bargain between the traders and the railway companies. To-day a kind of *ad misericordiam* appeal had been made by the railway companies, who had done what they always had done in every Act of Parliament affecting them. They had accepted the Bill and immediately proceeded to whittle away the privileges for which the traders had pressed. He considered that the gentlemen who represented railway companies had ingeniously tried to confuse the House and the President of the Board of Trade.

Colonel LOCKWOOD asked whether it was in order to say that the object of Members who had spoken was to confuse the House.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said that he understood the hon. Member to mean that the arguments used by the representatives of railway companies had the effect of confusing the House, and if so he was in order. It would not be in order to accuse Members of deliberately misrepresenting facts for the purpose of confusing the issue.

*Mr. MOND said he withdrew his observation, if it appeared to convey any personal imputation. With the usual ordinary rate, the carrier's rate, and the maximum rate, the railway companies had three independent rates. The maximum rates the railway companies never charged in ordinary practice, because they knew that if they attempted to charge them the country would revolt. As everybody knew, those rates were fixed ridiculously high. He was now talking of the comparison between the maximum, the ordinary, and the owner's risk rates. It was true that the owner's risk rates were much lower than the maximum rates, but they were not in many cases much lower than the ordinary traders' rates. What traders complained of was that the railway companies, under the owner's risk rates, wanted the traders to take the risk of the dislocation of traffic and the companies' mismanagement upon the top of all the other risks they had to take. With regard to milk and other agricultural produce, many cases had occurred where goods properly addressed and consigned had been sent to wrong destinations, and, after having been carried backward and forward between the place from which they were sent and that to which they had been consigned, were eventually delivered in a condemned state. In every such case the railway companies had refused to pay compensation. The farmers suffered most severely, because the railway companies practically refused to carry their milk at any other than owner's risk rates. He knew that legally they could not refuse, but the farmers would have to spend thousands of pounds in taking the railway companies before the Railway and Canal Commission in order to compel them to do so, and that they could not afford. In fact, he knew of one railway company that had no rate in their book save the owner's risk rate. The railway directors in the House did not appear to be particularly well acquainted with the details of their own business. They were reasonable men when they came to the House of Commons, and if they could only instil some of their reasonable spirit into their goods managers and lower officials, traders would have less cause of complaint. That was really the point of Sub-section 2 of the Bill. It was absolutely vital. If Sub-section 2 did not remain the Bill would be valueless, and they need not have it at all. The railway companies were adopting their old practice; while they were willing to accept the Bill, they were so endeavouring to whittle down the phraseology that the Bill would be useless when passed. That sub-section had been very carefully drafted by people who had had years of experience in these particular matters, and the section was not unreasonable, because all it did was to declare that if the company raised any owner's risk rate it should be deemed unreasonable under Section 1 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1894, and thus would enable the traders to appeal to the Railway Commissioners. The railway companies ought to be reasonable. There could be no objection to such a sub-section, and unless the traders had some protection of that sort the Bill would be absolutely valueless. He therefore earnestly asked the promoters not to allow any form of words to be introduced which would alter that clause. If they did they would only land themselves as they did in the Private Siding Act. They were fifteen years getting that Bill, and now they had to go to the Railway Commissioners to find out what it meant. The traders and the agricultural classes of the country were determined to have this Bill whether the Board of Trade and the railway companies liked it or not. They had been told of the treatment they had received from the railway companies, but he warned hon. Gentlemen opposite that unless they wanted to see State railways in a very few years in order to save trade and agriculture from being ruined and strangled, they would be wise to accept a small measure such as that now before the House.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District) said he would not have intervened in the debate, but for what had fallen from the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London. What hon. Members had said might not have been said to confuse the House, but it had confused the issue between the railway companies and the traders. What the hon. Member for the City said was perfectly true, that if a trader did not like to take the owner's risk rate he could fall back on the legal maximum rate, but the hon. Member treated the legal maximum rate as if it was a possible standard rate, whereas it was perfectly notorious that if the maximum rates were put into operation to-morrow, more than half the traders in the country would be ruined. The late chairman of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway had stated that the maximum rates had been fixed as the limit to which railways could go under circumstances of the most abnormal character, and to suggest that the companies could enforce their maximum rates as if they were applicable to the normal state of trade was absurd and calculated to mislead the country as to the position in which the controversy stood. That being so, the position in which the traders were placed was really the same as that in which a person was placed by a highwayman who put a pistol to his head and said, "Your money or your life." The form was for the railway company to say, "Take our owner's risk rate which is possible, or take our maximum rate which will ruin and destroy your trade." It was an extraordinary thing, but for the last seven years there had been a continuous increase on the part of the railway companies in the number of goods placed in the category of owner's risk. At present there were no less than 180 different classes of goods in that category, and it was time Parliament took the necessary steps to protect the traders and restricted the contracts of the railway companies in that regard. The position had been made particularly acute by the fact that quite recently the railway companies had extended the principle of combination so as to deal with the whole of the claims in regard to owner's risk rates. It had been suggested by the hon. Member for the City that the Joint Claims Committee of the railway companies had been formed in the interests of small traders. They had heard that story before. He hoped not only that the Bill would go through, but that there would be no weakening of its phraseology. A great railway director once said that, unless the State controlled the railway companies, the railway companies would soon control the State. That had been the position for many years, and was the position at the present time. There was now a great opportunity to change the whole course of things, and he hoped the President of the Board of Trade would grasp the situation and make a great name for himself.

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) remarked that the House had heard the points of view of the great railway companies and of the organised traders; he wanted to put the case of another section of the community—that section which had no railway company to grumble at. The great difficulty with regard to railways was that new ones seldom paid. If, therefore, the carrying rates of railways were compulsorily reduced, prospecting promoters of new lines would be discouraged from proceeding with them. Parliament did not want to make the position of railway companies unbearable. It had been contended that railways were monopolies, but that was no longer the case. They had competing with them other methods of transit, but they carried goods better and cheaper than any other carrier. He was not a railway shareholder. He had had nothing to do with the companies except to send an enormous amount of traffic on certain systems. He had nothing to thank them for; they had a great deal to thank him for. They had got enormous sums of money out of the work he had projected and carried through, and he hoped they would get a lot more. He did not want to discourage railway companies. Everybody who knew anything about the country knew that our great prosperity was due to the railway companies. It was futile to attempt to drive the railway companies. Such attempts had always failed in the past and would fail in the future. He ask the supporters of the Bill not to expect too much from it. He was sometimes accused of being a Radical. Had he ever said a word against the rights of property or ever threatened to deprive the owners of one fraction of their legal and rural rights? If they attacked security of capital which was now earning only 3½ per cent., they would do great harm to the traders of the country.

Mr. CHARLES WILSON (Hull, W.) said that owing to the present position of the companies and the Socialistic tendency in the House and elsewhere, everybody was in a very nervous state, and nobody would put anything into companies, industrial or otherwise. He considered the phraseology of the Bill was rather a matter of arrangement between the President of the Board of Trade and the railway companies.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. LAMBTON moved that Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Trade.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE suggested to hon. Gentlemen opposite representing the railway companies that they should put down the words they proposed as soon as possible, as they would have to be considered by the Law Officers of the Crown. There might be alternative forms of words.

Colonel LOCKWOOD said the right hon. Gentleman had one alternative form before him.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.) asked whether the railway companies were officially represented in the House.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich) raised the question whether it was right for a Minister of the Crown to refer to representatives of railway companies in the

House. He was under the impression that the House was represented by members for constituencies, and not by directors of railway companies, and that the mover of the Bill was representing the great public. To ask any hon. Member what the railway companies had to say about the matter seemed to him to be quite a new order of procedure.

*MR. SPEAKER : I do not see anything disorderly in it. We all represent the public, but we also represent other interests at times.

SIR F. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said it was only suggested that those who were in a position to speak for the railway companies should, with regard to an alternative form of words proposed by them, place those words as early as possible before the Committee with the view of their consideration by the Board of Trade and others.

Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MAJOR RENTON (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) said the Bill of which he desired to move the Second Reading would be familiar to many Members of the House. It was introduced first in 1893 and received a Second Reading in 1897. The principle of the Bill was that roads should be rendered safe to all who used them. If the Bill became law it would affect not one class but everybody who travelled on highways. He thought that Parliament should not leave to county councils questions which affected life and limb, and that the time had come when Parliament should pass in regard to the lighting of vehicles a statute law which should be universal in its character It was quite true that county and borough councils had adopted by-laws for their areas, but those by-laws were a source of difficulty and trouble which increased year by year as the population increased. In sixty out of sixty-two counties and in 223 out of 324 boroughs there were by-laws with a total lack of uniformity, and what the promoters of the Bill asked was that all vehicles should carry a light at night so that they might be seen by everybody approaching them. It had also been suggested that vehicles should be compelled to carry a red light behind, but as they desired to go on the line of least resistance the promoters had abandoned that idea. Their great desire was to get uniformity. No doubt variety and elasticity were two excellent things, but when it came to the safety of the public the House would agree that uniformity was better. At the present time one could go from one county where a vehicle had to carry two lights into another where it had to carry only one, and pass from that into a third where it had to carry one in front and one behind. As it was in the counties so it was in boroughs. There was no uniformity whatsoever. In regard to the provision of lamps, it would be found that the expense was very little; an excellent lamp could be purchased for 2s. or 3s., and such a lamp would cast a red light behind, while the cost of maintaining it would be about 1d. per eight hours. One source of danger arose from carts which travelled by night at a walking pace. Those were the very carts which should have some light. It was said that a heavy cart going along the road at night made such a noise that people were bound to hear it and could get out of its way. But he would undertake to say that there was not a single Member of the House who had not on at least one occasion either had an accident or been threatened with one by one of those carts going along the road. One could imagine the danger of meeting such a vehicle unlighted on the road when driving along on a dark night, the roads very soft, and travelling down wind. Harvest carts and brewers' drays were in such cases absolutely noiseless until one was right upon them. Then it was urged that in summer months heavy carts should be exempted. Personally he had always regarded the darkness of summer as being quite as inconvenient as the darkness of winter. Indeed, on a cloudy night in summer, when the leaves were thick upon the trees, he thought hon. Members would agree that a country lane as even darker than in winter. It was also said that the proposal would entail cost upon farmers. No one in the House had greater sympathy with the agricultal interest than he, but he did not think that the proposal would cause any appreciable expense or annoyance to farmers. He had not heard a word against the Bill from any person connected with farmers or the agricultural interest. As a matter of fact, farmers did not send their carts along the roads at night to any great extent. The greatest offenders in that respect were heavy brewers' vans and furniture vans. Those were frequently on the road, and it was to them that the Bill would apply. There was also very great danger when carts were standing still. He had been inundated recently with harrowing details of people who had been injured by meeting at night with accidents which might easily have been prevented. He would not weary the House by reading an account of accidents brought to his notice, but there was one specially flagrant case which occurred in his own constituency about a year ago. A young man was riding home at night on his bicycle, and he was travelling downwind. A cart with no light was passing through a gateway and he crashed into the wheel of the cart. The result of the accident was that he was unable to attend business for thirty-five weeks, and he was under medical treatment for forty-six weeks. Accidents of that kind were growing more frequent every day of the week, whereas they might easily be avoided. The Bill was not brought forward in the interest of any one class of the community but in the interests of all who travelled. He was aware that it was said that the Bill was primarily in the interest of those who drove motor cars. The answer to that was that a similar Bill was introduced in 1893, before motor cars were thought of. He thought it quite possible, if the Bill were carried, to do without the mon trous and exaggerated head-lights which they now carried, for they would no longer have the excuse that they could not see what was on the road. He would only say in conclusion that he was well aware, as were most promoters of Bills, that the Bill had defects and required some amendment. If the House permitted the Bill to go upstairs its supporters would be most happy to consider any Amendment in a most sympathetic spirit, so long as it did not go against the principle of the measure. He asked the House, for the sake of all whose business or whose pleasure took them along the roads at night, or during the hours of darkness, to read the Bill a second time.

Major Renton.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir F. BANBURY said the Bill was a very simple one, and, as far as he could see, it did very little to alter the existing state of affairs. He did not quite see how the Bill was going to remedy the present state of things. The by-laws of counties differed, for in one they might have to carry two or three lights, as the case might be, while in another county only one light was required. The Bill did not remedy that. They had the existing by-laws of county councils, and, if this Bill became law, the County Council of Wiltshire, for instance, would have an opportunity of making whatever regulations it liked with regard to lights to be carried. It was only, as he understood, in the event of the county council or the borough council not making any by-laws that the provisions of the Bill would come into force. Therefore the numerous differences which existed at the present time would continue. But he did not think that that was any detriment to the Bill. The great object of head-lights was to enable one to see what was coming along the road, and one light carried on the off side would serve the purpose quite as well as two lamps ahead. There were one or two small matters in the clauses to which he would like to allude. No doubt some years ago there was considerable opposition on the part of agriculturists to proposals of this sort, but he thought that that opposition had to a certain extent died down. In most cases farmers had to carry lights on their vehicles and they had become accustomed to it. He agreed that the provision of lights was not an excessive burden. But it frequently occurred that a plough or some other agricultural implement had to be brought from the field across a road, and to require that in all such instances the farmer must provide lights would impose a burden on him. He did not suppose that the mover of the Bill intended that, but was was a Committee point which no doubt would be made. There was one other point. Clause 4 said that the Bill should not apply to Scotland or Ireland. If there was one place in the United Kingdom to which it should apply it was Scotland. In the Highlands a man might run into a cart and sustain an accident when he was twenty miles away from any place where he could obtain medical assistance, whereas if the cart carried a light the accident would be avoided. Therefore it seemed to him that Scotland ought undoubtedly to be included. He did not know anything about Ireland. If Ireland had no regulations in force, there could be no harm in extending the Bill to that country, so that she might not suffer the injustice of being treated differently from England or Scotland. With those qualifications he wished to support the Bill.

MR. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) said that the County Councils Association had had this matter under their consideration on more than one occasion, and the Resolution which they passed some years ago in favour of some such legislation still stood. As the main point of the Bill was to get universality of application throughout the country, the County Councils Association would like it to be read a second time. The important matters were that there should be further uniformity in the position and character of the lights, and that there should be no exceptions as regarded time. Those were matters which might be practically dealt with in Committee, and therefore, he hoped the Bill would be read a second time and committed.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said he in no way opposed the Bill, but he wished on behalf of the Mersey Harbour and Dock Board to point out the necessity of a little more elasticity being introduced into the Bill in Committee. There were portions of great cities, especially those contiguous to the great docks, where bicycles were certainly not the rule. He could testify that in the case of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board the approaches to their docks were not of a character to encourage bicycles, because the thoroughfares were monopolised by heavily-laden lorries proceeding to the docks. There was no need to light them, and it must be apparent to the House that where they had inflammable goods like hay and cotton and other materials of that kind it was undesirable, in the interests of safety, that they should multiply lights. In the view of the Dock Board, and of the people of Liverpool generally, it was thought that there was sufficient light in the public streets, as well as in other directions, to make quite needless the provisions of this Bill. He understood that the mover of the Bill was prepared to accept suggestions on that point, and he hoped it would not escape the attention of the Committee. Every day they had fresh evidence of the disastrous nature of fire in one direction or another. By the use of lights in the vicinity of docks and similar places, explosions might be caused and human life endangered. He was sure that the House would desire to introduce safeguards which would as far as possible minimise the danger to human life and property caused by the use of lights in circumstances such as he had described. He suggested to his hon. friend that in Committee some such clause as the following should be inserted in the Bill: "That the Act shall not apply to well-lighted areas in towns of a larger popula- than 200,000 inhabitants, where the local authorities have already exempted slow-going vehicles proceeding at a walking pace; nor in the boroughs of Bootle, Birkenhead and Salford." That would include Manchester, which claimed to be the third or fourth seaport of the United Kingdom. [AN HON. MEMBER: The first.] He would not go into that controversey, but Manchester claimed a place, and therefore he thought it had a right to be considered in the matter. This might appear a small point, but in great cities, with big docks, it was a very important point, and he trusted that the promoters of the Bill when in Committee would understand that, if they passed the Second Reading, they reserved to themselves the right to introduce exceptions n the public interest, where human life and property might otherwise be endangered.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) pointed out that whilst the Bill as it stood compelled the owner to place a lamp on his vehicle it did not provide that anybody should keep it lighted. It was, therefore, necessary that some provision should be made for the person in charge of the vehicle to see that the lamp was kept lighted during the specified hours. In his opinion it would be difficult to make a universal rule that a red light should be placed at the back of every vehicle, but such a rule might be made in the case of timber waggons. Already in many counties there was a special regulation that timber waggons must carry a red light at the back. He did not think the exemptions should be confined to the few cities which had been mentioned by the hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division of Liverpool.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said he would oppose the suggestion that the Bill should apply to Scotland until public opinion in Scotland was declared to be more in favour of it. He was afraid there were certain parts of Scotland where the Bill would be looked upon as inflicting a considerable hardship. Besides the difficulty of getting small vehicles to carry lights there was the difficulty which would be encountered in regard to motor cars. He did not think it would be found that there was any desire on the part of country districts to favour the acceleration of speed of motor cars. If all vehicles were compelled to carry lights he was afraid the strength of the lights on motor cars would be considerably reduced. He was not prepared to extend the Bill to Scotland, because many counties in Scotland would be found to be against it.

*COLONEL SANDYS (Lancashire, Bootle) said a good deal of interest was taken by his constituency in the Bill, with which he thoroughly agreed. He thought it was most desirable that there should be one rule throughout the United Kingdom. It was true that there were exceptions to every rule, and the Liverpool Cart Owners Association had communicated with him, pointing out that in well-lighted thoroughfares it was almost useless to require vehicles to carry a light. He hoped that when the Bill came to be considered in Committee, provision would be made for exempting well-lighted thoroughfares in such cities as Liverpool and Manchester and other large towns. Words might be inserted enabling the local authorities to define the areas which were well-lighted, and then all other areas should come within the scope of the Bill.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said that where the streets were well-lighted the provisions of the Bill would be totally unnecessary, and would be very onerous if enforced. It would be quite impossible to carry out the proposals in regard to lorries, which were flat carts laden well over the sides, because they could not fix a lamp on them. In county council areas where such lorries had to carry lights they were nearly always placed underneath where they could not be seen. Moreover, the lamps would be dangerous in the case of large loads of cotton-waste which reached well over the sides, because they might catch fire. In Bolton he had never known an accident through the absence of lights on vehicles in the well-lighted streets.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness) was afraid that if they made so many exceptions the Bill would be useless, and would apply only to the North Pole. He would like some of those hon. Members who talked about no light being necessary in a well lighted street to define what they meant by a well-lighted street.

MR. HARWOOD: All our streets are well-lighted.

MR. C. DUNCAN thought probably there might be a difference of opinion amongst the hon. Member's constituents upon that point. He had twice very nearly lost his life through vehicles not carrying lights, and the matter was a far more serious one than some hon. Members seemed to appreciate. Probably the greatest danger had not yet been mentioned. They had heard a good deal about the danger of carts without lights moving along at a slow pace, but in his opinion the cart which was not moving at all was the greatest danger. He thought all vehicles should carry a light so that one driver might see the position of another vehicle. The objections which had been raised were all points which could be dealt with in Committee, and he should support the Second Reading of the Bill.

MR. MARNHAM (Surrey, Chertsey) said that when the Bill got into Committee he hoped the suggestion made by the Association of County Councils that there should be uniformity would be carefully considered. Unless that were secured there would be a good many difficulties in the case of carts and drays and other vehicles coming from one district to another, because they would not know which districts had adopted the by-laws with regard to lights and which had not. Those who were acquainted with the country districts knew the danger of getting about the roads on a dark winter's night, and sometimes the darkness in summer was even worse than in winter. He hoped that the Bill would receive a Second Reading in order that that danger to the public might be lessened. An objection had been raised in regard to the trouble and expense of providing lights, but such trifling things ought not to be taken into consideration when the prevention of accidents was the object to be attained. In these days of cheap illumination the provision of lamps ought not to be any hardship at all.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) supported the Bill. They had had similar provisions in force in the West Riding of Yorkshire for a long time and they had worked well. He could assure those who had raised objections to the Bill that when its provisions came into force their objections would disappear. When the proposal was first made to apply similar regulations to Yorkshire he moved an Amendment to exempt various classes of agricultural produce, but his proposal was rejected. He was glad to say that the cause of his objection had now wholly disappeared, because the farmers had come to realise that if the Act was carried out fairly and with common-sense no harm would be done. The hon. Member for the Leith Burghs had stated that he was afraid the Bill would lead to motor cars reducing the power of their lights, and he also objected to the Bill applying to Scotland. He ventured to think that as far as the Highlands of Scotland were concerned there was not the faintest chance of the power of the motor car lights being reduced, because it was the possibility of meeting not a cart, but a pig or a donkey or a cow in the road that the motorist had to fear. He wished to emphasise the necessity of insisting upon red lights being carried behind timber waggons. They had a regulation to that effect in Yorkshire, and no objection had been raised to it. He hoped proper provision would be made in the Bill for the trimming and lighting of the lamps. It had been suggested that two lights should be insisted upon, but he thought that would be considered a grievance by agriculturists. The regulation that lorries should carry lights had been enforced in Yorkshire with very little objection, and notwithstanding what had been said by the hon. Member for Bolton he did not see why it should not be carried out in Lancashire as well. As to there being no suitable place to fix a lamp on a lorry, the light was often carried on a projecting hook which kept the light clear of the cotton or wool. The objections which had been raised did not appear to him to be very serious, and he hoped the Bill would speedily become law.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk) said that he heartily supported the Bill, not merely as Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club and Motor Union, representing some 15,000 motorists, but also as President of the Tramways Association. The Bill was as important to tramway traffic as to motorists and cyclists. He was glad to note that the former hostility of agriculturists was dying out. Motorists recognised that the powerful head-lights which they carried at present were a danger, but the Bill would hardly remove the necessity for them, because ordinary traffic was not to be compelled to carry tail-lights. Those head-lights blinded the drivers and the horses and he wished he could think the Bill would very largely remedy that. But he was afraid it would not, because the essential point was missed from the Bill, that there should be a light at the rear of the cart. There was the ridiculous anomaly that they forced swift-going traffic to have a light at the back but slow-going traffic, which was likely to be overtaken, was exempt. He thought the ground on which the hon. Member for Bolton asked that his constituency should be exempted was not a good one. He wished to support the Bill because he believed it would be a step in the right direction for the safety of the public and would be one of the first indications that the House realised that traffic on the road must be adapted to the road and not the road to the traffic.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said he was not going to speak against the Bill, although he had given notice of his intention to move its rejection. Having been informed by his hon. friend that it was not the Bill of last year, he had withdrawn his objection to it. He would protest against any attempt to extend the Bill further than it went at present. He hoped that its promoters would remember that its provisions represented the extreme amount of latitude that ought to be given to motorists. The roads were not made for the selfish gratification of motorists, but for the general use of the public at large. The Bill did not apply to Scotland, and it did not include the most objectionable features of last year's measure.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland was well-known to be a very hostile critic in regard to the deeds of motorists, and if the Bill had been brought forward in their interest, it would have in him one of its strongest opponents. His hon. friend behind him, who was well qualified to speak on behalf of the motor industry, had carefully abstained from saying anything from the motorist's point of view, and he was glad he did so. The House should consider the question not as it affected any particular class of traffic, but with the sole desire to provide for public safety on the roads. Great danger to people on foot or on horseback resulted from vehicles not being properly lighted. When a similar Bill was before the House three years ago he was inundated with correspondence pointing out the dangers arising from that cause. His hon. friend hit the nail on the head when he said that the Bill did not go quite far enough. In the case of a fast motor-car which was not easily overtaken on the road, the carrying of a light in the rear was compulsory, but agricultural carts and timber wagons were exempt from that obligation. It seemed to be an anomaly that the slow moving vehicle which was most likely to be overtaken by another should not be required to carry a light in the rear. Admirable model by-laws had been drawn up by the Home Office and issued to county councils and borough councils for adoption where it was thought advisable. The by-law with reference to vehicles carrying projecting timber might with advantage be adopted in the Bill. Some of the worst accidents had occurred through unlighted vehicles standing at the side of the road. He thought that was a matter which should receive consideration when the Bill was in Committee. Under the by-laws there was a penalty more than twice as large as that proposed by the Bill. The fact that in England sixty-two counties and 223 boroughs had adopted the by-laws, showed that there was a large consensus of opinion in favour of uniformity in the matter. The hon. Member for the City of London wondered why Scotland was not included in the Bill. Scotland was in advance of England in this as in most other matters. The Burgh Police Act of 1903 contained provisions more stringent than those in the by-laws issued by the Home Office. The regulations under the Act had been adopted by all except five burghs. Of the five, three had more stringent regulations of their own. In twenty-seven of the counties of Scotland the regulations under the Act were in force, and only six counties had no by-laws. He thought, however, that in Scotland there was room for greater uniformity. The variations in the requirements of the different by-laws with respect to lighting gave rise to a great deal of trouble to people who used the roads and had to cross the border between one county and another. That might be avoided by the adoption of a uniform system for the whole country. The Bill would provide for the enforcement of certain uniformity all over England. The provisions were not in any way oppressive or unreasonable. They were designed for the public safety and with no intention to promote the interests of those who owned motors or any other class of vehicle. For none of the offences under the Bill would the penalty exceed 40s. He did not think any more reasonable proposal could well be put before the House.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL, Yorkshire, Cleveland) said everyone who had taken part in the debate had supported the Second Reading of the Bill, and that unanimity the Government were very glad to welcome, for the measure was one which they were anxious should be passed. It was a very necessary Bill. He supposed there was hardly any Member of the House who had not had personal knowledge either of an actual accident, or of a narrow escape from accident, owing to the absence of lights on vehicles on country roads at night. The use of lights became more and more necessary as roads became more and more frequented. The old English highways for a long time were almost deserted at night, but now they were alive with new forms of locomotion. Regulations of the kind proposed were therefore more necessary than before. In the interest of public safety a certain minimum standard of lighting of vehicles ought to be universally enforced. The hon. Member for the City of London had suggested that the local authorities had already very generally adopted by-laws, but there were seventy-seven boroughs in England and Wales where there were no by-laws at all; forty counties which did not require agricultural carts, or carts going at a walking pace, to carry any lights; and thirteen counties which required no lights to be carried during the summer months. All those exemptions seemed to the Government to be inadvisable and bad. Agricultural carts were just as dangerous as any other form of vehicle. In fact it was perhaps more dangerous to leave a small number of vehicles unlighted where people were accustomed to find lights in use, than to dispense with lamps altogether. As to the exemptions in the summer months, he would point out that in our climate a great many summer nights were dark, or foggy, or stormy, and lights were just as necessary then as at any other time of the year. There was no reason for all those local differences. He had had a map prepared showing the nature of the by-laws in force in the different counties of England and Wales. Taking a line from east to west he found that in East Suffolk the by-laws exempted agricultural carts, and there was an exemption for the summer months, while in West Suffolk there was an exemption for agricultural carts, but no exemption for the summer months; in Cambridgeshire there were both of those exemptions; in Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Warwickshire there were no exemptions; and in Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Radnorshire and Cardiganshire there were exemptions for agricultural carts. Those facts showed that there were marked differences in the conduct of the various local authorities. It was an absurd mistake to suppose that a measure of this sort was more in the interest of motors than of the agricultural carts with which they were likely to collide. It took two to make a collision. The regulations were required not only to save motorists running into carts, but to save carts from being run into by motorists. The Bill of 1905 included Scotland, but he thought it was perhaps wise on this occasion to omit Scotland, though not because Scotland was ahead of England in this respect, for she was not. Several of the chief counties in Scotland had no by-laws, and almost all of them exempted the summer months, and almost all exempted agricultural waggons. But the reason why it was possibly wise to exclude Scotland was because that country had separate statutes which dealt with the regulations as to lighting. An even stronger reason was that on the last occasion when the Bill was before the House it was bitterly opposed by almost all the Scottish Members who spoke, and was rejected by one vote. If the Scottish Members expressed a desire to have the Bill extended to Scotland, and if his hon. friend who had charge of the Bill could see his way to agree, that could be done in Committee. Certain drafting Amendments would be necessary when the Bill got into Committee. The point raised by the hon. Members for Liverpool and Bolton would no doubt receive consideration, although he was at a loss to understand why a regulation which was enforced in London and Manchester should be wholly impossible of enforcement in Liverpool or Bolton. That was a matter on which the Committee would decide. He hoped the House would grant the measure a Second Reading. Once the Bill was passed into law custom would very soon adapt itself to the new legislation, and soon everyone would wonder why it had been postponed so long.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said he wondered how the Under-Secretary had been able to satisfy himself that an unlighted vehicle was a source of danger on an English road, but not on a Scottish road. He thought the House would be perfectly entitled to proceed in a matter of this kind on general principles, and to see that some portions of the community were not exposed to penalties from which others were exempt. As regarded the suggestion of the hon. Members for Liverpool and Bolton, he sincerely hoped the promoters of the Bill would not consent to the exemption they claimed. He had had considerable experience in the passing of by-laws, and he had found that the moment they began to exempt it was very difficult to stop. The hon. Member for Bolton had given an interesting account of the use of lorries in that town, and had stated that when the vehicles were loaded in a certain way the light underneath would be obscured. That could easily be remedied by requiring that the light should be put on the side of the lorry. He had the honour at one time to represent one of the Divisions of Liverpool, and he knew something of the way in which lorries were used in that city. He supposed that a large proportion of the carts and lorries used in Liverpool and Bolton did not traverse only the confines of these places, but that they passed in and out of the adjoining counties. If they were going to give exemptions within the borough or city the first man summoned for not complying with the regulations outside would say that his instructions were to work within the borough or city to which he belonged. By allowing exemptions they provided every sort of excuse for evading the law. He thought, however, that some consideration should be given to the agricultural aspect of the question, because, as the hon. Gentleman knew, the main difficulty which led agriculturists to ask for special provisions was not that they wanted to be put on a different footing from others who habitually used the roads, but because it frequently happened that an agricultural cart or waggon was taken out with the intention that the person in charge should be home before dark, but was prevented from doing so. It was difficult also for carts on the field to carry the necessary lamps, and that was one of the reasons which led agriculturists to ask special consideration. The opinion among agriculturists had been to his knowledge largely altered in that respect, for they realised that if there was to be a general law they must be amenable to it as much as the rest of the community. They realised that the dangers to which they were exposed at present made it desirable that they should be protected, and that if they were protected other people must be protected against them. When the Bill reached Committee it might be necessary to consider whether some special provision should be made in regard to agricultural carts which had been in use on a field. He hoped the Committee upstairs would resist further exemptions which might destroy the real value of the Bill.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said that he was very glad that agreement was so general as to the desirability of the Bill, and especially that its promoters would have the active support of the Government. He did not intend to detain the House, but he had been directly challenged by his hon. friend the Member for the City of London to answer him on one or two points. The first point that his hon. friend raised was about the inclusion of agricultural implements. He had spoken of agricultural implements as if the Bill included everything, spades, mattocks, and so on, that came under that heading.

SIR F. BANBURY said that there was nothing to show that it did not.

*MR. COURTHOPE said that if the Baronet would notice it the Bill said hon. "drawn by animal traction." He did not think a spade was an implement drawn by animal traction, and it was perfectly clear to anyone who read that clause that it was intended to apply to such things as mowing and reaping machines, and those kinds of implements were a great source of danger. They were a far greater danger on the road than carts or waggons, and as an agriculturist himself, he did not think the words would inflict any hardship at all on the agricultural community. With regard to the exemption of Scotland and Ireland, they would like, if they thought it were possible or feasible, that the Bill should apply to the whole United Kingdom. There was no great opposition to the Bill, in fact there was a general consensus of opinion in favour of it in England and Wales, as far as they could make out; but there seemed to be a considerable amount of opposition in Scotland and Ireland; and they had acted on the principle of half a loaf being better than no bread. It might be a bad principle, but still it was sometimes necessary in practice. He thought it was certainly better that they should lay down the principle of uniformity in the question of the lighting of vehicles through England and Wales than perhaps lose even that by asking for the principle to be applied to the whole of the United Kingdom. A curious objection had been raised by the hon. Member for Kingston, and also by the Under-Secretary for the Home Office, which he would not have expected from either of them. They had said that there was nothing in the Bill requiring the lamp to be lighted. All he could say was that if the lamp was not alight, how was it going to display to the front a white light visible at a reasonable distance? As long as it displayed a white light visible to the front for a reasonable distance he did not care personally whether it was alight or whether it showed a light by another means. He did not think it mattered at all. What was wanted was a light showing, and it did not matter how it was obtained.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Bill does not say it shall display a light, but that it shall be so placed as to display a light.

*MR. COURTHOPE said he quite agreed—

"so constructed and placed as to show a white light for a reasonable distance."

He was not going to argue a point of legal interpretation, but he would have thought that that conveyed to the ordinary mind that the light was to be visible from a reasonable distance between the stated hours. As the Under-Secretary for the Home Office had said, however, that could be easily altered in Committee by the insertion of other words, and he was perfectly certain the hon. Member for Gainsborough would be the first to admit the Amendment. A number of hon. Members, including the hon. Member for East Toxteth and the hon. Member for Bolton, had pleaded for an exemption in favour of their particular constituencies. He thought himself that that would be very undesirable. They had talked about lorries carrying cotton waste, and the danger in those cases of having a lamp. All he could say was that lorries carrying cotton waste and other inflammable materials in many parts of the country were lighted, and, as far as one could make out, without much danger. If cases of accident occurred frequently owing to the fact that they were carrying lamps, he was certain that safety lamps of some kind could be adopted. But the fact remained that lamps were carried by lorries loaded with inflammable materials without accidents in many parts of the country. Why should they not be in other parts? He thought it would be a great mistake if exceptions were made in favour of certain towns to suit the convenience of individual Members. The hon. Member for Middleton on behalf of the County Councils' Association had given the Bill very valuable support, and he entirely endorsed what he had said as to the desirability of getting absolute uniformity throughout the country. It was for that purpose that the Bill had been introduced. One or two right hon. and hon. Gentlemen had referred to the question of lights behind slow-moving vehicles. He quite agreed with them there, and he hoped it might be possible in Committee for the Home Office to support or possibly bring forward themselves the suggestion that on timber waggons and waggons carrying scaffold poles, and so on, there should be lights behind. In those cases of slow-moving vehicles, there was quite as much, or in fact more, danger to vehicles overtaking them than to vehicles meeting them. But he would not like to risk the Bill on a point of that kind, though if they could get it in in Committee it would be very desirable. He hoped the House would give the Bill a Second Reading without a division.

VISCOUNT DALRYMPLE (Wigtown) said that everybody who had spoken so far seemed to be in favour of the Bill, and also of extending it to Scotland as soon as possible. He did not give many pledges during his election contest, but one he did give, and that was to oppose any Bill for the lighting of vehicles in Scotland. The few roads in his constituency were used almost entirely by people who were opposed to the extension of this Bill to Scotland, and even if the law were imposed upon them there would be nobody to see that it was carried out. He did not think that the majority of his constituents wished to break any law, but if the Bill were extended to Scotland the cost of the lights would be to them a serious and unnecessary additional expense in bringing home their crops and agricultural implements from the fields. He would therefore oppose the extension of the Bill to Scotland.

Mr. Courthope.

MR. W. NICHOLSON (Hampshire, Petersfield) hoped that when the Bill went to Committee a clause would be inserted making it clear that vehicles in the service of the Crown were bound to carry lights as well as other vehicles. Some time ago a collision occurred near Aldershot between an Army Service waggon and a farmer's cart; and the defence set up was that as the waggon was in the service of the Crown the by-laws of the county in regard to the carrying of lights did not apply to it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law, &c., read a second time, and committed.

LICENSED PREMISES (ELECTION DAYS) CLOSING BILL.

Order for second reading read.

***MR. CHARLES ROBERTS** (Lincoln) said his remarks had to be brief in arguing for the advisability of passing this small measure, the object of which was to secure the closing of licensed premises on the polling day of any election under the provision of the Ballot Act. He submitted that there was a great amount of practical experience in favour of the proposed change in the law. What was proposed by the Bill was in force throughout Canada, and other British Colonies, and he was interested to read that in the Transvaal, owing to the operation of Lord Milner's law on the subject, the recent elections were conducted with a good order and decorum that were quite laudable and remarkable. In 1905 a similar law was passed in New South Wales. In fifteen States of the American Union, including all the most important ones, laws had been passed for closing licensed premises on election days; and he found that in Canada it was common ground with both political Parties that the public-houses should be shut on such occasions. He was assured by an official in Toronto that there had been a marked absence of intemperance on election days there since the passing of the law; and the President of Harvard University, the chairman of a Committee of fifty which proposed a number of moderate changes in licensing legislation, said that American opinion accepted without question the restriction of the opening of public-houses on election days. What was proposed by the Bill was that the opening of licensed premises or the selling of drink thereon on the days upon which Parliamentary or municipal elections were held should be declared an illegal practice. There was one exception which did not appear on the face of the Bill. The City of London, under the drafting of the Ballot Act, would be exempted from the Bill, and exceptions were also made in favour of persons living in hotels and travellers by railway. He believed that if the Bill became law it would improve the conduct of elections in the country. He had been told that it might cause great inconvenience; but if inconvenience arose once in every four or five years, it was no more than the inhabitants of Wales, Scotland, and almost the whole of Ireland submitted to on Sunday every week. If he were asked to give any justification for the proposed change he would refer to the facts elicited during the trial of elections petitions, although all the facts were not by any means revealed. Quite enough, however, had come out to show that in certain portions of certain constituencies there was a bribable class and that bribery took place in public-houses on election days. Not many years ago the candidates at an election had a triumphal procession going from one public-house to another, in which there was a great deal of treating and drinking. Similar practices took place in connection with municipal elections. The Attorney-General had held out hopes the other day of a measure stiffening up the law of corrupt practices, and he submitted that this point should not be overlooked. It would promote the purity of elections and check some well-known abuses. Publicans claimed that they were bound to stand by their trade irrespective of every other consideration. If that were so, he maintained that the country at large ought to be at liberty to take special precautions to prevent the improper use of public-houses at election time. He appealed to the Government to give the proposal embodied in the Bill a place in their promised licensing legislation. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

SIR F. BANBURY said that the hon. Gentleman had made an extremely able speech, from his own point of view; but he had introduced an extraordinary precedent into the debates of the House. The hon. Gentleman had practically talked his own Bill out, and no one else had a chance of making any observations upon it. The hon. Gentleman had made a still more extraordinary suggestion that the Government should take up the Bill, and embody it in their promised Licensing Bill. They were promised so many Bills by the present Radical Government that if, in addition to those, they were going to take up the Bills of their supporters, he was afraid that Mr. Speaker would have to sit in his Chair without any interval until Christmas Day, and that was not a possibility which anybody in the House would look upon with any great pleasure.

And, it being Five of the Clock, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

*Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said he wished to move the adjournment of the House in order to make a statement as to the course of public business. Owing to the First Reading of the Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill having been obtained yesterday, the Government were able to meet the wishes of the Leader of the Opposition, and would devote a whole day to the Second Reading of the Bill. Monday would be set aside for that purpose, the Bill being made the first Order of the day. In the evening the Government hoped also to secure the Second Reading of the Army Annual Bill. On Tuesday, it was proposed to introduce under the ten minutes rule a Bill to amend the Patent Laws, and the Secretary for Scotland, under the same rule, desired to introduce the Scottish Education Bill. After that, the Small Holdings (Scotland) Bill, and the Butter Bill would be introduced, and there were three small non-controversial measures of which the Home Secretary wished to obtain the Second Reading: the Probation of First Offenders' Bill, the Poisons Bill, and the Released Persons Bill. Those would all take precedence of the President of the Board of Education's Administrative Provisions Bill.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Joseph Pease.*)

Mr. COCHRANE asked if it was the intention of the Government to introduce the Small Holdings (Scotland) Bill under the ten minutes rule?

Mr. J. A. PEASE replied in the negative, and asked leave to withdraw his Motion for the adjournment of the House.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MERCHANDISE MARKS BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

POLITICAL PENSIONS BILL.

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Friday, 19th April.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1.)

Mr. David Alfred Thomas reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill: Mr. Arthur Lee; and had appointed in substitution: Viscount Morpeth.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at five minutes after
Five o'clock till Monday next.

Sir F. Banbury.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 18th March, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BYRNE'S DIVORCE BILL [H.L.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read: Counsel called in: Moved that the Bill be now read 2^{a}: The same was agreed to; Bill read 2^{a} accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited [H.L.]; Royal Bank of Scotland [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.].—Presented (pursuant to leave given on Thursday last); read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Aberdeen Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.]; Buckhaven Dock Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]; Royal Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; Newquay and District Water Bill [H.L.]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Message from the Commons that they have come to the following Resolution to which they desire the concurrence of the House, viz., "That it is expedient that th Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons." The said message to be taken into consideration To-morrow.

Kendal Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways Bill [H.L.]; North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Buckhaven Dock Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.):—

V. Hampden,
L. Teynham,
L. Ravensworth,
L. Newton (chairman),
L. Weardale;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill [H.L.]; Southend Water Bill [H.L.]; Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Portishead District Water Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.):—

E. Scarbrough,
E. Lauderdale (chairman),
E. Carnwath,
E. Verulam,
V. Colville of Culross;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [H.L.]; Coventry Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Colne Valley Water Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.)—

D. Wellington,
L. Zouche of Haryngworth,
L. Ribblesdale (chairman),
L. Seaton,
L. Ritchie;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Glasgow Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.)—

M. Bath,
E. Hardwicke,
E. Camperdown (chairman),
L. Faber,
L. Haversham;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Thursday, the 25th April next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill (No. 19); London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill, (No. 20).—Brought from he Commons and read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Returns of the agricultural holdings in each county of Great Britain, compiled from the returns collected by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1890, 1895, 1903, and 1906.

EMIGRATION.

Report on the Emigrants' Information Office, for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Reports from universities and university colleges participating in the Parliamentary Grant, 1906.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Memorandum showing the amendments proposed to the Army Act.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Memorandum on the probation system as at present in force in the United States of America.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS).

Returns of description of qualifications of deputy-lieutenants lodged during 1906 as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT, 1875.

Order in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, relating to the circuits of the Judges.

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879, AND WINTER ASSIZES ACT, 1876.

Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, constituting Spring Assize Counties, Nos. 2 and 3, for the purpose of the ensuing Spring Assizes.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907—

Applying the provisions of Section 238 of the Act to deserters from Nicaraguan vessels;

Approving certain byelaws made by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board relating to the pilotage funds of the Liverpool District.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 11th March, 1907, providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops within the burgh of Leith.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report from the Committee of Selection, that the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

L. Saltoun,

L. Torphichen;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL [H.L.]

A Bill for further promoting the revision of the Statute Law by repealing enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary—Was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 18.)

JUDICATURE BILL [H.L.]

Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Wednesday next.

POPULATION OF CROFTING PARISHES.

LORD SALTOUN: My Lords, I beg to move for a Return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881–1886, 1891–1896, and 1901–1906. I quite recognise that I have asked for the information in somewhat minute detail, but as it is important, I hope that His Majesty's Government will be able to give me the Return.

Moved, That there be laid before the House a return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881–1886, 1891–1896, and 1901–1906.—(*Lord Saltoun.*)

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: My Lords, I can promise the Return for which the noble Lord asks for the years 1881, 1891, and 1901, which are the census years. As regards the other years, it is not clear that sufficient *data* are available. But if the noble Lord will consent to leave the matter in the hands of the Secretary for Scotland he will undertake that the Return shall be as complete as possible.

On Question, Motion, in amended form, viz., "That there be laid before the House a return of the population in the crofting parishes of counties in Scotland, showing the totals for each county separately in the years 1881, 1891, and 1901, and for any other years between 1881 and 1906 for which the information may be available"—(*Lord Saltoun*); agreed to; and ordered accordingly.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 18*th March*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS (CITY OF WORCESTER).

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from one of the Judges of the High Court of Justice the following letter relating to the Election of the City of Worcester—

" City of Worcester and County of the same City.

" At the Assizes and General Session of the Delivery of the Gaol of our Lord the King, holden at Worcester in and for the County of the City of Worcester, on Wednesday the sixth day of February, in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Seventh, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven, before the hon. Sir John Charles Bigham, Knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, and other Justices of our said Lord the King, assigned to deliver his Gaol of the said County of the City of Worcester of the Prisoners therein being.

" Whereas our said Lord the King by a certain Commission dated the seventh day of July, one thousand nine hundred and six, in the sixth year of the reign of our said Lord the King, under the hand of one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, authorised and appointed Edward Tindal Atkinson, Esquire, one of the Counsel of our said Lord the King learned in the Law, Attorney-General of the County Palatine of Durham, Recorder of the City of Leeds, Horace Edmund Avory, Esquire, one other of the Counsel of our said Lord the King learned in the Law, Recorder of the Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, and Charles Willie Mathews, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, Recorder of the City of Salisbury, to be Commissioners for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of corrupt practices at the last Parliamentary Election for the City of Worcester. And whereas the said Commissioners have by their Report, dated the twenty-second day of November, one thousand nine hundred and six, reported to our said Lord the King that one Walter Caldicott was guilty of Bribery and of an Illegal Practice at the said Parliamentary Election for the said City of Worcester. And whereas the said Walter Caldicott hath, pursuant to sub-section 2 of Section 38 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, appealed to this Court against the said Report. Now this Court, having read the said Report and such parts of the evidence given before the said Commissioners as relate to the said Walter Caldicott, and having heard the Honourable Reginald William Coventry, of Counsel for the Appellant, and James Cranstoun, Esquire, of Counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and having heard the evidence of Samuel Adams, Frank Jenkins, and Charles Frederick Thornborrow, and of the said Walter Caldicott, This Court doth order that that part of the Report of the said Commissioners by which they report the said Walter Caldicott as a person guilty of Bribery be set aside."

By the Court,

ARCHER C. HEMP,

Deputy Clerk of Assize.

March 12*th*, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Central London Railway Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of

Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 67 NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 67 has not been complied with, viz. :—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Boston Spa Gas Bill.—Read a second time, and committed.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Resolved, That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons. Message to the Lords to communicate this Resolution and to desire their concurrence.—(*Mr. Burns.*)

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1.)

Mr. DAVID ALFRED THOMAS reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That the parties opposing the Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill had stated that the evidence of Captain George Pirie, of North Ferriby, near Hull, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Captain George Pirie do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That Captain George Pirie do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

GALWEY'S DIVORCE BILL [LORDS.]

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of Galwey's Divorce Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bills that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses for Galwey's Divorce Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear Counsel and examine Witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned think fit to be heard by Counsel and produce Witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour—From Ashton Field; Barr's Camnethan; Bellshill; Blackheath; Dalzell and Broomside; Parr and Haydock; Radcliffe; Rowley Regis; Salsburgh; and Wharton Hall Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petition from West Surrey, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour—From Ashton under Lyne; Hampstead; Harrow; Keswich; and Southend-on-Sea; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops in the Burgh of Leith [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EMIGRATION.

Copy presented, of Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Copy presented, of Returns of the agricultural holdings in each county of Great Britain [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS, IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return of descriptions of qualifications of deputy lieutenants lodged during 1906, as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

WINES IMPORTED.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th February; *Sir Frederick Banbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 81.]

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25 February; *Mr. M'Crae*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 82.]

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Reports from Universities and University Colleges participating in the Parliamentary Grant, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION ACT, 1902 (RATES RAISED UNDER SECTION 18 (1)).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th May, 1906; *Mr. Birrell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 83.]

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879.

Copies presented, of two Orders in Council of 1st March, 1907, constituting Spring Assize Counties No. 2 and 3 for the purpose of the ensuing Spring Assizes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT, 1875.

Copy presented, of Order in Council dated 1st March 1907, relating to the Circuits of the Judges [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copies presented, of Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907 (1) applying the provisions of Section 238 of the Act to deserters from Nicaraguan vessels; (2) approving certain by-laws made by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board relating to the Pilotage Funds of the Liverpool District [by Act]; to lie upon able.

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 14th March; *Mr. Herbert Samuel*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 84.]

TREATY SERIES (No. 10, 1907.)

Copy presented, of International Agreement respecting the Unification of the Pharmacopœial Formulas for Potent Drugs, signed at Brussels, 29th November 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (County of Wilts).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901; *Mr. Griffith-Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 85.]

East India (Co-operative Credit Societies).—Address for "Return showing the progress of Co-operative Credit Societies in India."—(*Mr. Rees.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Naval Expenditure of Great Britain, France, Germany and United States.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can give, for purposes of discussion on the Navy Estimates, the total sums set down in the Navy Estimates, 1907–8, of Great Britain, France, Germany, and the United States for shipbuilding, repairs, and armaments, on the same basis as the Answer given on 13th November, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The following statement gives the information desired by the hon. Member :—

Great Britain.	1907–8 Estimate.
	£
Shipbuilding	8,113,202
Repairs and maintenance of material (*i.e.*, hulls, machinery and equipment, anchors, cables, &c.), but not stores . . .	1,800,198
Armament and first outfit of ammunition for new ships and re-armed ships	1,127,000
Repairs and maintenance of guns and torpedoes	62,000
Total	11,102,400

France, Germany, and United States.

Aggregate Sums voted for Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Armaments.

Country.	Financial Year.	Estimate.
		£
France . . .	January to December, 1907 . . .	5,724,468
Germany . . .	April, 1907 to March, 1908 . . .	7,287,025
United States . .	July, 1907 to June, 1908 . . .	9,387,072*
	Total aggregate	22,398,565

* This figure includes a sum of £821,946 towards the accumulation of a reserve supply of ammunition.

Education Estimates—Increase of Building Grants.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he will state the basis of the increase in the Estimate for building grants for local authorities' training colleges from the £15,000 voted for this year to £150,000 to be voted in 1907–8.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Owing to a misprint, which does not, however, affect the total estimate, the sum which Parliament is asked to vote under this head is placed at £150,000, on Page 367 of the Estimates. The amount required is correctly stated on Page 358 to be £85,000. The increase of £70,000 over the sum voted last year is due to the anticipated increase in the claims which will mature during the next financial year, and not to any change in the regulations.

Cost of Transfer of Army Accountants.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Secretary of State for War what were the inclusive expenses incurred by the public in transferring Colonel Bray, as Chief Accountant, from Aldershot to

York in January, 1906, and Mr. McArthur from Salisbury to York, in February, 1907, on succeeding Colonel Bray in the appointment respectively; and what were the total emoluments of each official prior to assuming this appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The particulars of the expenses are recorded locally. If the hon. Member attaches importance to the point, I will call for the information. The emoluments in question were as follows:—

	£
Colonel Bray - - -	715
Mr. McArthur - - -	650

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War under what Vote the expenses of transferring civilian members of the Army Accounts Department are included.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Vote 6.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any limit to the cost of conveying civilian members of the Army Accounts Department from one appointment to another; and whether, in view of the Director of Army Finance Circular, dated 28th February, 1905, wherein provision is made for the conveyance of civilians and their families only, he will state the authority for placing the entire cost of removing the belongings and effects of such civilians, together with compensation, upon public funds.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Reasonable expense of removal are allowed, under regulations approved by the Treasury, in accordance with the practice for the Civil Service generally.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state what provision is made for the conveyance of military members of the Army Accounts Department and their belongings when transferred from one station to another.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The provisions referred to are those applicable to officers of the Army generally. They are laid down in the regulations for the allowances of the Army.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, whereas officers and subordinate members of the Army Pay Corps are liable for duty abroad, civilian members of the Army Accounts Department can only be invited to volunteer for service abroad, and are granted substantial additional pay for such service.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Except in the case of civil servants not previously liable to service abroad, who received no compensation to cover such liability on joining the Army Accounts Department, all established members of the Department are liable to service abroad. They are not granted extra pay for so serving, but receive an allowance to cover the increased cost of living when abroad.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War what are the total emoluments in Malta of the present civilian first-class assistant accountant, and military first-class assistant accountant respectively; and how much does each receive as Colonial allowance; and what are the rates granted in other Colonial stations to civil and military members respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The average annual emoluments at Malta for first-class assistant accountants are:—Military, £492, no Colonial allowance; Civil, £392, plus £100 Colonial allowance. As regards other foreign stations, the Colonial allowances for officers are laid down in the Allowance Regulations, Paragraph 290. In addition officers serving abroad receive an allowance for rations, and at some stations a higher rate of lodging money. The allowances drawn by civilian first-class accountants are as follows:—

	£
Pretoria - - - -	220
Cape Town - - -	200
Ceylon - - - -	150

Post Office Uniform Contractors.

Mr. WILES (Islington, S.): To ask the Postmaster General, if he will state the names of the firms holding contracts for making Post Office uniforms and the prices paid them previous to 1st January, 1907; and will he state the names of the present contractors and the prices paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It would be contrary to practice and against the public interest to state the prices paid. The contractors under the old contract were Messrs. Myers and Company, Messrs. Hebbert and Company, Messrs. Webb and Company, Messrs. Lotery and Company, Messrs Glanfield and Son, Messrs. Dolan and Company, Messrs. Hess and Son, Mr. G. Day, Messrs. Hammond and Company, Messrs. Eastwood Brothers, Messrs. Ireland and Son, Messrs. Pim Brothers, and the Limerick Clothing Company. Of the above, Messrs. Glanfield and Son, Messrs. Eastwood Brothers, and Messrs. Pim Brothers, do not hold clothing contracts; Messrs. Compton and Son, the George House, Limited, Messrs. Firmin and Sons, and Messrs. Pearson Huggins and Company now hold contracts.

Cost of Medical Inspection under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill.

MR. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education what will be the probable cost of medical inspection under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill; and whether the grant will be in any way influenced by such inspection as is carried out by local education committees.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I have no information as to the probable cost of medical inspection. The grants, other than those governed by statutes, are paid in respect of the efficiency of instruction and are not affected by any efforts which local education authorities may make in other directions.

MR. JOWETT: To ask the President of the Board of Education if he will state what expert staff it is proposed to provide at the Board of Education to advise as to sanctioning arrangements under Clause 10 (b) of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill; and will there be any machinery, by inspection or otherwise, for standardising or ensuring efficiency in the medical measures carried out by the local authorities and for reporting to the Minister for Education on the valuable scientific materials of educational value likely to become available.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I think it would be premature at this stage to decide what machinery will be required by the Board of Education on the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill becoming law, but the matter is having my careful consideration and the hon. Member's suggestions will not be lost sight of.

Education Expenditure.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the President of the Board of Education if he will lay upon the Table a Statement showing the details of the expenditure during the present financial year of the £200,000 voted under Item C as special grants to certain local education authorities.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am having a Statement prepared, and will lay it upon the Table when the House re-assembles after Easter.

Foreign Trawlers in Moray Firth.

SIR ARTHUR BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the fact that the Scottish bay known by the name of the Moray Firth is specifically referred to in an Act of Parliament (1889) as the waters between the headlands known as Duncansby Head and Rattray Point, a distance of seventy-five and three-quarter miles, he will say whether any trawlers of foreign nations, other than the Grimsby-Norwegians, have ever fished there since June, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) In 1903 nine trawlers and 1904 six trawlers were seen flying flags other than that of Norway, but during each of the three subsequent years only two have been seen flying a flag other than Norwegian.

Territorial Forces Bill—Transfers of Outstanding Balances.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, under Sub-section 3 (c) of Clause 28, Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, the balances standing to the credit of all regimental funds will, on the transfer of a regiment to the territorial force, be credited to the funds of the county association.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Clause 28, 3 (c) of the Bill provides for the transfer of all the property (which property includes any cash balances) of a unit to the county association, subject to any trust affecting such property, and no alteration can be made in the terms of a trust without the consent of the corps.

15-pounder Guns for Use of Artillery Volunteers.

Mr. WALROND (Devonshire, Tiverton): To ask the Secretary of State for War how many 15-pounders for the use of the Artillery Volunteers will be converted during the next financial year under the grant of £10,000 to be voted for that purpose; and what proportion of this stock of guns will remain for conversion at the end of 1907–8.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) It is expected that nine batteries of four guns each will be converted during the next financial year. About 400 guns at present unappropriated will remain available for conversion at the end of 1907–8.

New Army Scheme—Irish Militia and Regular Battalions.

Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether there will be in Ireland eight nucleus Regular battalions intended to co-exist with the Irish Militia, enlisted under Part III. of his scheme; and whether, in consequence, an increased number of recruits, taking Militia and Regulars together, will be required in Ireland in the future, or whether a decrease in the number of Irish Militia battalions and the decrease in artillery will meet any increase caused by the formation of Irish nucleus Regular battalions.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the rest of the Question, owing to the weakness of certain Militia battalions in Ireland there may have to be some amalgamation of battalions under the new scheme. The establishment of men in the battalions of both kinds which will be retained in Ireland under the provisions of the Bill will not be less than the existing strength of the Irish Militia, but I do not anticipate that a greater number of recruits than at present will be required.

Qualifications of Military Attachés to Foreign Courts.

Sir W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): To ask the Secretary of State for War if expert knowledge of any foreign language is a *sine qua non* when qualifications of candidates for the post of military attaché to foreign courts are considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I explained to the hon. and gallant Member fully, in reply to a Question put by him on this subject in November last, the qualifications which were regarded as paramount in the selection of military attachés. To this explanation I have nothing to add.

Army—Service with Colours and Reserve.

Sir W. EVANS GORDON: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the estimate that under a seven and five years system of enlistment the number of men in the Reserve could be calculated in the proportion of five to seven of those with the colours was made on the authority of the Actuarial Department of the War Office; whether the numbers of men serving with the colours and with the Reserve respectively have ever stood in such proportion under a seven and five years system; whether they stand in those proportions now; and whether he has any official estimates showing that they will do so.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I made no such statement as that which the hon. Member quotes quite correctly from a Report, which, unfortunately, I had not seen until now; what I did say was that if the system was one of seven years with the colours and five with the Reserve, even on the assumption of a large margin for wastage, 115,000 men was a more likely estimate of the Reserve than the much lower figure quoted.

Full information of the mode of calculating the normal Reserve was given in Command Paper 3360.

Purchase of J. W. Leahy's Estate at Aghatubrid.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to state what price has been fixed by the Estates Commissioners for the purchase of the J. W. Leahy estate at Aghatubrid, seeing that the estate was thoroughly inspected last year, and that the decision as to price was left to the Estates Commissioners on 6th January.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are at present taking steps to estimate the price which they may offer for this estate, and will communicate their offer to the owner as soon as possible.

Alleged Intimidation of Mr. Beirne at Tonlagee.

Captain HERVEY (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of Mr. Beirne who lately surrendered his farm at Tonlagee; whether he is aware that this surrender was caused by intimidation, and that Mr. Beirne has stated in public that he is the victim of an act of robbery, but that he will forego his interest in the farm if the Estates Commissioners will find money to endorse the plunder; and whether the Estates Commissioners have taken any steps to purchase this farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) My attention has been called to this case. I am aware that Mr. Beirne has announced that he has surrendered the farm, and I am informed that a letter purporting to be signed by him and containing a statement to the effect mentioned in the Question has appeared in a local newspaper. Nine men were prosecuted at assizes upon a charge of riot and unlawful assembly in connection with the dispersal of Mr. Beirne's cattle, and the trial resulted in a verdict of not guilty. Mr. Beirne has offered to sell his interest in the farm to the Estates Commissioners, and the matter is at present under their consideration.

Withdrawals of Salaries of Irish National School Teachers.

Mr. MOONEY (Newry): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of teachers of national schools in Ireland with over twenty-five years service from whom salary was withdrawn during the year 1906; how many of these received no remuneration for loss of means of earning a livelihood; and will he recommend the Commissioners of National Education to take their cases into consideration, and grant them some recompense for loss of employment.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the number of teachers with twenty-five years service from whom salary was withdrawn during the year 1906 is twenty-eight. All of these except eight were retired on pension. The Commissioners have no power to grant compensation for loss of employment.

Building and Improvement of Irish Schools.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the amount available, including the sum to be voted in this year's Estimates, for the building, enlarging, and improving of Irish primary schools; and whether he has estimated what further sum will be required to place these schools in a satisfactory condition.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Estimates for the coming financial year which are now before the House. In the Estimate for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland, a sum of £40,000 is provided for the building and enlargement of national schools, and in the Ireland Development Grant Estimate a sum of £25,000 is provided. I am unable to procure anything approaching an accurate estimate of the total amount required to place national schoolhouses in a satisfactory condition, but obviously a very considerable amount will be necessary.

Delay in Sale of Sir E. Hayes' Estate at Letterkenny.

Mr. C. MACVEIGH (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what has caused the delay on the part of the Estates Commissioners in completing the sale to the tenants on the estate of Sir Edmund Hayes, near Letterkenny, country Donegal, the evicted tenants having been reinstated, the agreements to purchase signed, and the estate lodged in 1904; is he aware that the Commissioners' inspector has been over the estate, and that the landlord and tenants are equally anxious to have the matter ended; and whether he can say when the sale will be completed; and, if so, when the vesting orders will be issued to the tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The purchase agreements in this case were lodged in January, 1905. The estate has been inspected, but questions as to security and other matters have arisen in respect of some of the holdings. The Estates Commissioners are about to suggest to the owner that the advances for the portion of the estate as to which no question has arisen should be made at once, leaving the remaining cases to be dealt with subsequently as a separate estate.

Poaching Conviction at Athenry—Action of Mr. French.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the remarks of Mr. J. W. French, a Justice of the Peace for county Galway, in a case heard at Athenry, in which two men were convicted by the majority of magistrates for poaching and fined respectively 30s. and 20s.; whether Mr. French, being one of the presiding Justices, in open Court advised one of the accused not to pay the fine which had been inflicted by a majority of the Justices; and whether, seeing that such conduct is calculated to bring the law into contempt, the attention of the Lord Chancellor has been drawn to the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have referred this Question to the Lord Chancellor. Mr. French, who is a Justice of the Peace *ex officio*, appears to have taken a wrong view of the law in this game prosecution, and to have differed from the majority of the magistrates who inflicted a fine. His advice to the defendant not to pay the fine seems to have been based upon his mistaken view of the law; and it appears to the Lord Chancellor that there is no reason for taking further notice of the matter.

Extra Police at Dowra, County Cavan.

Mr. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say what is the population of Dowra, county Cavan; what is the present strength of the police force stationed there; how many of these are extra police; what will the extra tax be per month; will he say why the extra police are stationed in Dowra, and whether their services are required in county Cavan; have any offences against the person been recently reported; and will he give the details of reports which, it is alleged, warrant the detention of extra police in Dowra.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Dowra police district comprises thirty-nine townlands in county Cavan and fifty-one in county Leitrim. The population of the county Cavan portion of the district is 1,525. The present strength of the police force at Dowra is twelve men, of whom six are for duty in the County Cavan portion of the district. Of these six, three are extra police, the charge upon local authorities for which will be at the rate of £8 12s. 4d. a month. No offence against the person has recently taken place in the Cavan part of the district, but a case of arson and several cases of boycotting, intimidation, and threatening notices have occurred, and these, in the opinion of the responsible police authorities, have necessitated the temporary strengthening of the police force.

Arrest of Nicholas Moran at Athenry.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the arrest of a respectable young man named Nicholas Moran, of Coldwood, Athenry, in the early hours of Sunday night, 10th ultimo, who was carried off to Athenry during the night, and locked up in the police cell for thirty-six hours before being remanded to Galway Gaol; whether he is aware that this man was refused the option of bail by most respectable people; what was the crime with which he was charged; and, seeing that he is an only son to an aged mother, will he instruct the police authorities to allow him out on bail.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed by the police authorities that the accused in this case was arrested on a warrant for the offence of posting up boycotting notices at several places at Athenry. He was remanded in custody to petty sessions, the magistrate having, in the exercise of his judicial discretion, refused to take bail. The arrest took place at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday the 10th instant, and the accused was taken to Galway Prison by the first available train, namely, that leaving at 10 a.m on the 11th instant. The case was concluded on Saturday last, when the magistrates refused informations and the accused was discharged.

Athenry Agricultural College.

Mr. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many students are attending the Agricultural College, under the Agricultural Board at Athenry; how many teacher-instructors are employed giving instruction; what is the extent of the land worked in conjunction with this Agricultural College; and what is the cost, including rent of land, fees to professors and teachers, etc., of maintaining the college for the past twelve months.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Nine farm apprentices are in residence at this station, and there is one vacancy. One teacher is employed in addition to the farm manager, whose duties include instruction in practical agriculture. The extent of land under crop last year was 230 acres. The cost of maintaining the station last year was £917, including the salaries, wages, and general up-keep. Besides its use for teaching purposes the station is utilised as a distributing centre in connection with the operations of the Department's live stock scheme in the West of Ireland.

Functions of Brevet-Colonel A. J. Arnold at Beira.

Sir D. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether Brevet-Colonel A. J. Arnold, whose name appears on page 68 of the monthly Army List as one of the officers in special extra-regimental employment, is in the employment in any, and what, capacity of the Portuguese Chartered Company at Beira, in Mozambique; if so, what, if any, salary is he paid by the Portuguese Chartered Company; is he in receipt of his full pay as an officer in the British Army; and, seeing that Beira is not a British possession, on what grounds is his extra-regimental employment justified.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Brevet-Colonel A. J. Arnold is in the employment of the Mozambique Company, in the capacity of Inspector of Exploitation at a salary of £1,500 a year. He draws no pay as an officer of the British Army. It was considered that the appointment of a capable officer at Beira would be a distinct advantage.

Supply of Hay for Glen of Imaal Artillery Camp.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will give instructions to the officer in command at the Glen of Imaal (county Wicklow) artillery camp during the coming summer practice to obtain, if possible, the supply of hay from the farmers or contractors residing in the neighbourhood of the camp.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The supply of hay at Glen Imaal camp is arranged for by the General Officer Commanding in Chief the forces in Ireland by contract. Tenderers for this supply cannot be limited to farmers or contractors residing in the neighbourhood of the camp to the exclusion of other eligible competitors, but all things being equal preference would ordinarily be given to local farmers.

Suggested Loan to Jamaica for Re-building of Kingston.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the loan made to the Colony of Mauritius to facilitate the re-building of houses destroyed by the great hurricane was issued by an Imperial guarantee; whether the repayment of the loan was satisfactory; and, if so, whether he will favourably consider the advisability of giving similar aid to the Colony of Jamaica to further the rebuilding of the town of Kingston.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The loan to the Colony of Mauritius to which the right hon. Member refers was issued with an Imperial guarantee, and the Colonial Government has punctually met its obligations in regard to it. The question of giving financial aid to the Colony of Jamaica will be carefully considered as soon as the Secretary of State has full materials for judging of the needs of the situation.

The Australian Preference Bill.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference to his Answer on 31st October last that the Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth has been instructed to reserve his assent to the Australian Preference Bill, although the Law Officers of the Crown had not up to that time been consulted, whether the views of the Law Officers have now been obtained.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that I stated on 31st October last that the Governor-General had been instructed to reserve his assent to the Australian Preference Bill. The Governor-General was merely warned that the provisions of the Bill seemed to be a violation of certain treaties, and, as will be seen from page 6 of Cd. 3339, the Governor-General ultimately reserved his assent on the advice of his Attorney-General and Prime Minister. The whole question of treaty obligations as affecting the Colonies is under the careful consideration of His Majesty's Government, with a view to a full discussion of the subject at the forthcoming conference, and in the meantime His Majesty's Government do not propose to express any opinion upon the matter.

The Chinese Government and the Anhui Mining Final Contract.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that the London and China Syndicate have now received a telegram from their agents in China stating that the Chinese have definitely declined the proposal under which the Chinese might have secured 40 per cent. participation in the development of the Anhui Mining Concession, he will now, in accordance with his statement, made on 5th July, 1906, in the House of Commons, take such steps as will cause the Chinese Government to recognise, without further delay, the Anhui Mining Final Contract.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) No confirmation has get been received from His Majesty's Minister at Peking, of the statement made by the agents of the London and China Syndicate referred to by the hon. Member. But I am in communication on the whole subject with Sir J. Jordan.

Nationality of Parsee Merchant murdered at Yezd.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Parsee merchant murdered at Yezd in February last was a Persian or a British subject.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I have no information to show that the merchant was a British subject.

Disposal of Site of Old War Office.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he can make any statement as to the disposal of the site or buildings of the old War Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) No, Sir.

Grievances of Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he will give the grievances of clerks to surveyors of taxes his consideration; is he aware that 373 of such clerks have served in tax offices for periods ranging from five to thirty years; will he say why the Treasury allege they are private clerks of the surveyors when the surveyor has no voice in fixing such clerks' salary or leave, and cannot engage or dismiss a clerk without the sanction of the Board of Inland Revenue; is he aware that the salaries are paid direct by the Board of Inland Revenue; and will he explain why these alleged private clerks are subject to the rules of a Board who state they are not their servants; and whether he will state why the surveyors are not allowed to deal with their alleged private clerks without the interference of the Board of Inland Revenue.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I stated in reply to a Question addressed to Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 7th instant, that this subject is receiving his careful attention. I have nothing to add to that reply.

Prison Regulations and Dietary.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he will say what are the dietary, labour, and other conditions of imprisonment for male and female prisoners in English and Welsh gaols who are sentenced to eighteen months, twenty-one months, or two years imprisonment with hard labour; whether there is any difference in such dietary, labour, and conditions of imprisonment for prisoners confined at Borstal or treated under the Borstal system; and, if so, what those differences are.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The dietary, labour, and conditions of imprisonment for ordinary prisoners sentenced to hard labour are those prescribed in the Local Prison Code (Dietary Rules of the 2nd September, 1901, and General Rules 1 to 77). These rules apply to prisoners treated under the Borstal system, except so far as they are modified by the Special Rules of the 24th January, 1902. The dietary of prisoners under the Borstal system is the ordinary Local Prison C diet with the additions in Standing Order 11 (Borstal). The differences in detail are too numerous and complicated to be set out in a reply to a Question. If the hon. Member will inquire of the Prison Department with regard to any particular point in which he is interested, he will be given full information.

Scottish Poor Law Administration.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): To ask the Secretary for Scotland, what were the amounts provided in Scotland in each of the years 1905 and 1906, or expended out of them, for education, Poor Law administration, registration of voters, and main roads, and what was the gross estimated rental and rateable value upon which such rates were levied.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) According to the Local Taxation Returns for 1904–5, which will be shortly issued, the amounts raised by local rates in Scotland in that year for education was £1,084,791, and for Poor Law purposes £1,073,560. For the same year the expenditure in connection with the registration of voters is given as £30,873. The Returns do not distinguish expenditure on main roads, but the expenditure on maintenance of roads, streets, and bridges in the year (inclusive of the annual charge for interest and repayment of debt) was, according to the Returns, £1,052,097. The gross rental of Scotland for 1904–5 is returned as £30,877,840, while the assessable rental for Poor Law purposes was (a) in respect of the owners' rate, £25,242,471, and (b) in respect of the occupiers' rate, £22,256,763. Statistics for 1905–6 are not yet available.

Disposal of Site of Duke of York's School at Chelsea.

MAJOR COATES (Lewisham): To ask the First Commissioner of Works, if he is now in a position to state his proposal for dealing with the site of the Duke of York's School at Chelsea.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) No, Sir, not yet. A Committee has the matter under consideration.

Commoner's Right of Cutting Turves on the New Forest.

Sir ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that Mr. Henry Taylor, a registered commoner of the New Forest, has, during three seasons, been prevented by the deputy surveyor from exercising his right of cutting turves on the New Forest for consumption as fuel in his messuage, as entered upon the statutory register of New Forest Commoners; and whether, seeing that the existence of Mr. Taylor's right has been admitted by His Majesty's Commissioner in charge of the New Forest, it is proposed to pay Mr. Taylor any, and what, compensation for this interference with his statutory rights.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I learn that the right to cut turves was attached to an ancient messuage which was demolished a few years ago, and upon its demolition the right ceased to run. A new house was built in 1903–4, and it was claimed that the re-building had been carried out in such a manner as to cause the right to revive. There was a dispute as to the facts, and the deputy surveyor, acting entirely in accordance with standing instructions previously given to him and founded on legal advice obtained by the Commissioner of Woods, refused to admit the claim and for three seasons withheld an order for turves. Recently further evidence as to the facts has been brought forward and a fresh opinion obtained from counsel, and in the result the claim has been allowed, and it is proposed, if Mr. Taylor applies for it, to allow him an extra quantity of turves to make up for those withheld since the new house was built.

State Expenditure in Respect of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. C. B. HARMSWORTH (Worcestershire, Droitwich): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the sum of £137,840 constitutes the total estimated State expenditure for the financial year 1907–8 in respect of the industries of agriculture and fisheries.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The estimated expenditure of the Board is as stated. It does not, of course, include any drafts which it may be necessary to make on the Local Taxation Accounts in pursuance of Section 18 (2) of The Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, and there are charges on the Votes for Scientific Investigation, etc. (Class 4, Vote 6) and for Temporary Commissions (Class 7, Vote 1) which must also be taken into account.

American Gooseberry Mildew in Ireland.

Colonel R. WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if the Board are aware that the American gooseberry mildew has been found in fourteen counties in Ireland, and that diseased bushes are at present on sale in many nursery gardens in Ireland; and if the Board will take immediate steps to prevent the spread of the disease through the sale of such bushes.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We are informed by the Irish Department of Agriculture that the disease in question exists in several counties in Ireland, and that diseased bushes have been found in certain nurseries. The Board have at present no power to prohibit the importation or sale of such bushes, but my noble friend hopes to introduce very shortly a Bill giving powers to the Board and the local authorities to deal with this and other destructive pests. In the meantime we are advising fruit growers not to purchase bushes from any infected district or without a certificate of freedom from disease.

Provision of Training Colleges and Hostels.

Mr. W. HOPE (Somersetshire, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Education why the grants in aid of the cost of the provision of training colleges by local education authorities are not also payable in aid of the cost of the provision of hostels.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The matter referred to is now under my consideration, and I am not at present in a position to make any statement.

Salaries of Rural Medical Officers of Health.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to statements made by Local Government Board medical inspectors in Reports by them, quoted in the Report from the Select Committee on the Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill, to the effect that certain medical officers of health and inspectors of nuisances in rural districts were, in fact, receiving inadequate salaries; whether the Local Government Board have recommended the repayment of a moiety of the salaries by the county councils in these cases; and, if so, whether it has received the consideration of the Board that they are thereby placed in the position of giving their approval to salaries which have been stated by their inspectors to be inadequate for a proper discharge of the duties required of such officers.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) It is only as regards some of the districts in question that the inspectors have in their Report directly referred to the salaries of the sanitary officers as inadequate. In most of these cases the Local Government Board had, prior to the inspector's visit, refused or threatened to refuse to sanction the appointment of all or some of the officers concerned. The visit of the inspector has usually led to a more satisfactory arrangement being made than that which previously existed, so that the Board have been able to sanction the appointments with a view to repayment of half the salaries by the county council.

Liability of Married Woman to Contribute to Maintenance of her Parents.

Mr. REES: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he is aware that the Court of King's Bench having recently held, on the appeal of the Pontypool Union *v.* Buck, that a married woman with ample separate estate is not liable to contribute towards the maintenance of her parents or parent; and whether, seeing that this decision creates a distinction between the sexes, and in view of the desirability of the removal of this distinction, he will introduce legislation with this object.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have stated in reply to previous Questions that I have taken note of this point, but that I cannot promise to introduce legislation on the subject at the present time.

Proposed Burial Ground at Great Stanmore.

Mr. GIBB (Middlesex, Harrow): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners claim to be entitled to accept conveyances of glebe land, and allow the same to be used as burial ground, without the consent of the Local Government Board or any sanitary authority, and that this proceeding is now contemplated with respect to glebe lands in the parish of Great Stanmore, notwithstanding that attention has been called to the unsuitableness of the site from a sanitary point of view; and whether he will take steps to assert a right of interference for the protection of sanitary interests, and will introduce legislation to prevent such a method of opening burial grounds without the consent of the Local Government Board.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I find that in the case of the parish of Great Stanmore it is proposed to extend the churchyard. In the absence of an Order in Council, which would have the effect of prohibiting the opening of a new burial ground in the parish without the approval of the Local Government Board, no consent on their part is required. Whether the law should be altered, so as to make their approval to the opening of a new burial ground necessary in all cases, is a point which I will cause to be noted for consideration in connection with any amendment of the Burial Acts.

Abolition of the Sugar Tax.

Colonel HARRISON-BROADLEY (Yorkshire, E.R., Howdenshire): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the declarations made by members of His Majesty's Government against the continuance of the duty on sugar, he is now prepared to consider the advisability of abolishing or reducing the same; and whether His Majesty's Government has yet come to a decision as to the attitude to be taken with regard to the removal of the Sugar Bounties.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) If and when the state of the public finances permit, the claims of sugar will have my best consideration, but I am unable to say when such an opportunity is likely to arise. No decision has yet been taken as to withdrawal from the Brussels Convention.

Appointment of Solicitors in the Estates Duty Offices.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the date of the last examination for solicitors to obtain appointments in the Estate Duty Offices, and whether he is aware that these appointments are still open to solicitors; and whether any notification has been given of their being withdrawn from solicitors.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*—(1) For the Head Office, 12th January, 1904. For the Edinburgh Branch Office, 26th March, 1906. (2) Yes. (3) No.

Indian Native Civil Servants and Indian Family Pension Funds.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the fact that natives of India who belong to the Indian Civil Service are not allowed to contribute to the family pension fund; and whether he is aware that, while the Indian Civil Service family funds were separate, they were so allowed, and that this disability only began when all the funds were consolidated and placed under Government; and whether he is aware that Natives of India who belong to the Indian Medical Department are allowed to contribute to the family fund of that service; and whether he can give any reason for this differentiation of treatment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am aware of the difference in the rules of the funds to which the hon. Member refers; but it is not the fact that the exclusion of natives of India from the Civil Funds dates only from the time when they were taken over by Government. Resolutions against the admission of natives of India were passed at a general meeting of subscribers to the Bengal Civil Fund in 1873, and the decision then adopted was followed by the Secretary of State in Council on taking over the funds. I may add that the total number of natives of India who subscribed to the separate Civil Funds was three, of whom two were in Bengal.

Manufacturing of Synthetic Indigo.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether any information is available regarding the cost of manufacturing of synthetic indigo which can be placed at the disposal of indigo growers in India.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I understand that the two or three companies which manufacture synthetic indigo among other dyes do not publish their accounts in a form that would enable the information desired by my hon. friend to be extracted from them. I will cause further inquiries to be made, and if any authoritative information can be obtained I will see that it is placed at the disposal of indigo growers in India.

Land Cases in County Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state when a sitting of the Land Sub-Commission was held for the Athlone and Ballinasloe rural districts of the County Roscommon; and whether, in view of the fact that numerous cases listed for more than two years are awaiting a hearing, he will see that a sitting for these districts be held without delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Land Commission inform me that in last December a list was published containing, with others, all cases from that portion of the district of Athlone situate in county Roscommon in which applications to fix fair rents had been received prior to 1st November. Owing, however, to the unexpectedly prolonged illness of the lay Assistant Commissioner, these cases have not yet been heard, but it is expected that they will be heard at an early date. The last sitting for the hearing of cases arising in the county Roscommon portion of the Ballinasloe district was held on the 5th July, 1906, when the list contained all cases in which applications were lodged prior to 1st May, 1906. The date of the next sitting for this district has not yet been arranged, as there is at present only one case pending.

Payment of Rent by Tenants on the Abraham Evans Estate.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the receiver on the Abraham Evans Estate, situate at Killooman, barony of Dromahair, County of Leitrim, has demanded rent from the tenants, notwithstanding his undertaking that they would not be called on to pay rent pending the negotiations for the sale of the estate; whether he is aware that Judge Ross has promised to sell the estate to the Land Commission; and will he take steps to have the interests of the tenants safeguarded pending the sale.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed by the Registrar of the Land Judge's Court that the Judge has given no directions that rent is not to be collected pending the negotiations for the sale of this estate. Mr. Justice Ross has not promised to sell the estate to the Land Commission, but he has issued a request to the Commission, under Section 40 of the Act of 1896, with a view to the sale to each tenant of his own holding. As soon as the Land Commission have furnished their Report the Land Judge will proceed with the matter in accordance with the provisions of the section quoted.

Prosecutions for Non-Attendance of School Children at Belfast.

MR. MOONEY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many prosecutions have taken place in Belfast during the year 1906 for non-attendance of children at school; and how many, if any, of such prosecutions have been against members of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that during the year 1906 there were in Belfast 3,691 prosecutions for non-attendance of children at school, none of which were against members of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Travelling Expenses of the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

MAJOR COATES: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what sum is included in the Estimates of 1907–8 for travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland; and under what item this sum will be voted.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) If the hon. Member will refer to the Estimates for the coming financial year now before Parliament, he will find in the Estimate for the Chief Secretary's Office, under Sub-head B (Pages 201 and 203), the proposed provision for travelling expenses of the staff generally, with the details of such provision. No separate provision is made for the Chief Secretary's travelling expenses. Both the Chief Secretary and his Private Secretary pay their own travelling expenses between London and Dublin.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Mr. Edmond Flavin.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the delay in the reinstatement of Mr. Edmond Flavin upon his former holdings on the Ponsonby Estate, county Cork, is causing him loss and inconvenience, inasmuch as when Mr. Flavin was informed by the Estates Commissioners, some considerable time since, that they were arranging for his reinstatement, he ploughed up his present holding, and is consequently in a state of uncertainty as to cropping, etc.; and whether he will represent this fact to the Estates Commissioners, with a view to a speedy settlement of Mr. Flavin's case and to the payment of the promised grant of £200.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners made a proposal some time ago for the purchase of the estate referred to, but the owner has not yet accepted it. In the meantime the Commissioners are unable to proceed with the proposed reinstatement of Edmond Flavin.

Disposal of Fines under the Irish Education Act, 1892.

Mr. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that, in accordance with the terms of Section 3, Sub-section 5, of the Irish Education Act, 1892, the whole amount of fines imposed under this statute has hitherto been applied in relief of the local rates in Ireland; that quite recently the justices of Carlow Petty Sessions received a circular letter from the Registrar of Petty Sessions, Clerks Office, Dublin Castle, to the effect that only one-third of such fines may be paid to the local authority, the balance to go to the Crown; and, as the annual expenditure in connection with the working of the Act has always exceeded the revenue annually derived from the fines, will he direct, in the interest of primary education in Ireland, that the full amount of the fines imposed under this Act, will, as hitherto, be applied in relief of the local rates.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am aware that in some districts the penalties referred to in the first part of the Question have been applied in the manner stated. The matter was recently brought to the notice of the Irish Government, who have been advised that the section quoted merely provides for the application of fines which have been awarded to local authorities, and does not contain a direction that all fines should be paid to such authorities. Consequently the application of penalties under the Irish Education Act, 1892, is governed by the Fines Act, 1851, which provides that one-third of any fine may be paid to the prosecutor. Further, under Sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Education Act, the magistrates may award to the prosecutor the costs incurred, provided hat the fine and costs together do not exceed 5s. The Government have no power to give the direction suggested in the last part of the Question.

Inspection of Estates of H. Atkins and Mr. Sinclair in County Cavan.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will say if the estate of H. Adkins or Mrs. Sinclair and another, trustees, county Cavan, is at present before the Estates Commissioners; will he see that inspection takes place on this estate; and when may the tenants expect to have their holdings vested in them.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the matter of the county Cavan portion of the estate in question is at present in the hands of the surveyor for the purpose of checking boundaries and occupation, and it is probable that an inspection will take place within the next two months. It is not, however, possible to state when the holdings will be vested in the tenants.

Evicted Tenants on Sir R. Hudson's Estate, County Cavan.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners had received applications for reinstatement from Patrick Carolan, William King, and Mrs. Catherine Carolan, the evicted tenants on Sir Robert Hudson's estate, in county Cavan; and will he further state whether this estate is yet before the Commissioners for sale.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the estate referred to is at present before them. The applications of the evicted tenants named have been received and will be considered in connection with the sale of the estate.

Railway Communication in North West Mayo.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether with regard to the contemplated construction under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act, 1902, of a harbour at Innishlyre, county Mayo, he is aware that his predecessor in office consulted his brother, the hon. Member for Inverness Burghs, as to the relative merits of such a harbour as against the construction of a railway from Mallaranny, county Mayo, to Belmullet; that the latter advised his brother, the ex-Chief

Secretary, to abandon the proposed Innishlyre harbour and construct the railway from Mallaranny to Belmullet; and that the hon. Member for Inverness Burghs informed the late hon. Member for West Mayo of such an arrangement and assured him that the line would be made; could he say whether any minute or record to that effect has been left by the late Chief Secretary at the Irish Office; and would he give a statement of the negotiations carried on by the late Chief Secretary with regard to such harbour and railway line.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have no information as to any communications on the subjects mentioned in the Question that may have passed between my predecessor in office and the hon. Member for the Inverness Burghs. The Government have still under consideration the question of communications in North-West Mayo, but no statement can be made at present.

Expenses of Innishlyre Harbour Construction, County Mayo.

Dr. AMBROSE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 10th March, 1903, the Under-Secretary for Ireland informed the Mayo County Council that out of the £100,000 voted under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act, 1902, it was proposed to construct a harbour at Innishlyre, near Westport, country Mayo, at a total cost of £40,000, but that it would be necessary for the county council to levy a special county-at-large rate for the maintenance of harbour constable and other expenses; that a resolution agreeing to levy this special rate amounting to £3,840, was passed by the county council on 12th December, 1904; that the Under-Secretary informed the county council that a railway deviation, involving an expenditure of £38,000, would be constructed, that it was intended to connect Belmullet with the Midland Great Western Railway and to expend the sum of £24,000 on piers and jetties for that purpose out of unexpended balances under the Railways (Ireland) Act, 1896, and that, in addition to those inducements to the county council to levy the county-at-large special rate, the Under-Secretary attended a meeting of the council on 15th October, 1904, and induced them to strike the necessary rate; is he aware that no attempt has since been made to construct those works; and will he say why the works have not been constructed and what has become of the promised grants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the answer which my predecessor gave to his Question on this subject on 29th October last.† It was a condition of the original scheme that the Midland Great Western Railway Company should contribute towards the cost of a railway connecting their line with the proposed harbour at Innishlyre. The company withdrew from the scheme before the present Government came into office, and the scheme was thereupon suspended.

Purchase of Mr. James Lloyd's Estate at Longford.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have taken any action to purchase from the landlord, Mr. James Lloyd, his grazing land, containing about 1,000 acres, which are situate at Longford, in the parish of Bourney, near Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary, so that they may parcel them up into small holdings in accordance with the provisions of The Land Act, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that in November last Mr. Lloyd was approached, through his solicitors, who replied that Mr. Lloyd farmed his untenanted land and was not prepared to dispose of it to the Commissioners.

Purchase of Grazing Lands of Mr. James Bennett and Mr. George Mitchell.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have yet entered into negotiations with the landlords, Mr. James Bennett and Mr. George Mitchell, with the view to purchase from them their grazing lands containing 400 acres and 260 acres respectively, situate in the parish of Bourney, near Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxiii., 683.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are unable to identify the untenanted lands referred to in the case of Mr. James Bennett. In November last, the Commissioners approached Mr. George Mitchell, but were informed that he had no untenanted lands.

Purchase of Grazing Land of Surgeon-General Roe.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have taken any action with regard to the purchase by them of the grazing lands, containing about 2,500 acres, situate in the parishes of Bourney and Killavinogue, near Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary, the property of Surgeon-General Roe.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that, on being approached, Surgeon-General Roe expressed his willingness to negotiate for a sale of his untenanted land, and his agent was requested to lodge a map and certificate of valuation with a view to a preliminary inspection. It was subsequently proposed that the tenanted lands should also be included in the inspection, and on the 11th instant the agent was informed that in these circumstances an originating request, with maps and schedules, should be lodged. These documents have not yet been received by the Estates Commissioners.

Vacancy on Irish Board of Education.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will see that the place on the Board of National Education, left vacant by the death of the late Judge Carton, will be filled by the appointment of someone who is qualified to represent the interests of that section of the people whose children have to acquire their education in the schools under the National Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The question of appointing a successor to the late Judge Carton on the Board of National Education is now under consideration. The hon. Member may, I think, rest assured that a suitable appointment will be made.

Improvement of Burtonport Harbour.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can now state the result of the negotiations between the Irish Government, the Congested Districts Board, and County Council of Donegal with reference to the proposed dredging and improvement of the harbour of Burtonport.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The consideration of this question is still in a preliminary stage, and I regret, therefore, that I am not in a position to make a statement in the matter.

Protestants and Roman Catholics in the Dublin Metropolitan Police.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many Protestants and Roman Catholics of all ranks are there in the Dublin metropolitan police force; and the number allotted to each of the several divisions.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Chief Commissioner informs me that there are in all ranks of the Dublin metropolitan police force 995 Roman Catholics and 195 Protestants (including thirty-four Presbyterians and seven Methodists). The religious persuasion of the men is not taken into account in allocating them to the various divisions.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Supplementary Naval Officers.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any supplementary officers have been appointed to ships in which they were senior to the first lieutenant; and, if so, what duties would be assigned to such officers; and whether supplementary officers can be, and, if so, whether they will be, appointed to positions in the coastguard, habour ships, or dockyards.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): Yes, Sir. Supplementary lieutenants are employed on such duties as are assigned to them by the captain. They are eligible for appointments in the coastguard, harbour ships and dockyards, and their claims to such appointments are considered with those of other officers.

London County Council Generating Station at Greenwich.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he has yet received any communication from the London County Council with reference to the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the London County Council generating station at Greenwich; and whether the Council are willing to agree to the recommendations of the Committee, and especially to give the undertaking called for by paragraph (c) of those recommendations.

MR. LAMBERT: No official answer has yet been given by the London County Council, but a formal reply has now been requested.

Admiralty Contracts.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that while, under an existing agreement of 1892, certain persons have contracted to remove furnace and forge ashes from Portsmouth Dockyard and to pay 1s. per ton for them, and under a contract of February, 1906, contractors agreed to pay 2s. a cartload for these ashes, persons have in fact for some time past been paid 1s. 1d. per ton to remove them; and whether he can state who is the officer responsible for enforcing the contracts referred to.

I beg also to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the grounds upon which the contract for the erection of additional buildings, estimated to cost £40,000, at the Boys' Training Establishment at Shottes, instead of being offered to public tender, was given to the contractor for the original building, and carried out as an extra at an increase of 5 per cent. on the original contract rates; and whether this procedure is in accordance with the usual practice of the Department.

MR. LAMBERT: As both these Questions are now under review by the Public Accounts Committee, it would be contrary to the usual practice for me to make any statement.

Naval Construction.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the new construction in the American Navy for the year 1905–6 was £11,374,876; if the new construction for the French Navy in the year 1905 cost £5,739,230; if he proposes to increase the British new construction to the sum of £17,000,000; and, if not, will the Admiralty abandon the two-Power theory.

MR. LAMBERT: The Answer to the first two Queries is in the affirmative, and to the latter two in the negative.

Loss of the Jena.

*MR. KING (Cheshire, Knutsford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the calamity which has deprived a neighbouring State of one of its first-class battleships, he proposes to reconsider the new construction programme for the British Navy for the year 1907–8.

MR. LAMBERT: No, Sir.

*MR. KING: Have the Admiralty taken into consideration the fact that the upholders in this House of the pure doctrine of the two-Power standard have repeatedly urged that in estimating the value of that standard no regard must be paid to the circumstance that the relations of this country with one of the Powers concerned may be of the most cordial character?

MR. LAMBERT: Every consideration was taken into account by the Admiralty in deciding on the shipbuilding programme.

Battleship Nucleus Crews.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the Statement of Admiralty Policy, 30th November, 1905, showed that we had twelve battleships with nucleus crews of two-fifths complement, which complements it was the intention of the Admiralty to increase; and whether he can state, for purposes of comparison, the number of battleships which will have nucleus crews of three-fifth complement and the number with maintenance parties of 10 per cent. of complement provided under the new scheme of distribution.

MR. LAMBERT: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the number of battleships of the Home Fleet with 60 per cent. or more of their full complement on board at Portsmouth and Devonport will be seven, and by the end of the year nine; and of Special Service battleships at the same ports thirteen. The suggestion that it was at one time the intention of the Admiralty to increase the nucleus crews of all ships, irrespective of the use to which they would be put in war, is incorrect.

MR. BELLAIRS: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the intention of increasing the nucleus crews was announced in the Cawdor Memorandum?

MR. LAMBERT: I think I said so in my Answer.

Naval Distribution.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the Statement of Admiralty Policy, 30th November, 1905, showed on page 37 that there were thirty-three battleships in full commission concentrated in three fleets; whether he is aware that, under the new scheme, there will be thirty-two battleships in full commission in four instead of three fleets, and that six of these battleships will perform less sea work and change two-fifths of their crews under training every eight months; and whether, under these circumstances, the Admiralty adhere to the view that the constitution of the Home Fleet will increase the immediate striking strength of the Navy.

MR. LAMBERT: Yes, Sir.

Cavalry Regiments for Scotland.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that three cavalry regiments form a brigade, he will consider the advisability of assigning a cavalry brigade of three regiments to Scotland instead of the two cavalry regiments he hopes to quarter in that country.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): As a matter of policy endeavours will be made in future to keep the cavalry regiments which form a brigade as closely concentrated in peace as possible, but I am unable to say at present whether it will be possible to quarter a brigade in Scotland. The adoption of a general system of allotting a brigade of cavalry to each command would involve a considerable addition to the cavalry as a whole.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Has the right hon. Gentleman abandoned the idea of quartering two cavalry regiments in Scotland?

MR. HALDANE: I have said that the matter is still under consideration.

Officers' Mess Furniture—War Office Charges.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, for the use of furniture for the officers' mess, costing about £275, about £36 annually is charged; whether, at the end of eight years, although more than its full value has been paid for by the officers, together with any sums necessary for repairs, the furniture remains the property of the Government; and, if this is so, will the Government make such alterations in the charge imposed for the hire of mess furniture that no profit shall be made by the Government out of its use by officers.

MR. HALDANE: The figures stated are correct for the most usual size of mess, as regards its initial cost and the rent chargeable. In view of the fact that articles damaged through fair wear and tear are replaced or repaired at the expense of the State, that unserviceable china, glass and crockery are similarly replaced up to 15 per cent. per annum of the total value of such articles allowed to the mess, and that worn out kitchen utensils are also so replaced, it cannot be admitted that in eight years more than the full value furniture and equipment supplied will have been paid for by the officers. The furniture and equipment remain the property of the State. In view of the above considerations and of the fact that the rent is held to operate by way of a sinking fund against the capital charge, interest on outlay, cost of storage, carriage, etc., it is apparent that no profit will be made by the State.

Barrack Furniture—Annual Charge to Officers.

MR. VERNEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether officers in the Army are charged 30s. per annum for the hire of barrack furniture that costs the Government £14 7s. 3d., the officers having to pay for any repairs necessary; whether at the end of nine and a half years, when the full value of the furniture has been paid by officers, it remains the property of the Government; and, if so, will the Government consider the desirability of readjusting the terms of hire of furniture so as not to make any money profit thereby.

MR. HALDANE: In the case of company officers the rent-charge of 30s. is correct, and the average cost of the furniture supplied is about £15. Damages due to fair wear and tear are made good by the State. The furniture remains the property of the State. As the rent-charge includes repairs and replacements, and operates by way of a sinking fund, it is held that no profit is made by the State. Further it would not appear excessive for an officer to pay 5s. a month for the furnishing of his mess and quarters.

Soldiers' Rations.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the rations of soldiers in billets are to be reduced as follows: bread 8 ozs. instead of 1 lb., potatoes 8 ozs. instead of 1 lb., meat 1 lb. instead of 1¼ lb., beer 1 pint instead of 2 pints; if so, what compensation will the soldier receive: and whether it is calculated that the Government will make any saving by these reductions, and, if so, what, and how is it to be applied.

MR. HALDANE: If the hon. and gallant Member will kindly examine Schedules 1 and 2 of the Army Annual Bill he will find that the soldiers' rations in billets have not been reduced, but, on the contrary, have been spread over three meals instead of two at an increased total cost of two shillings a day, in lieu of 1s. 9d.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Has the beer ration been reduced by one-half?

MR. HALDANE: That is a matter of detail.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: It is a very important one to the soldier.

Soldiers' Trouser-Pockets Order.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the regimental orders of the Royal Garrison Artillery, 1st Scottish Sub-District, on 1st March, which required officers commanding companies to report not later than 5th March that all trouser pockets of non-commissioned officers and men under their command had been sewn up or removed, and that neglect of this order would entail a regimental entry in the conduct sheet of any non-commissioned officer or man concerned, and, if so, whether he can see his way to cancel it at once, in view of the feeling it has engendered amongst the men concerned, and the effect it will have on the recruiting for this corps.

MR. HALDANE: The facts as stated in the Question are substantially correct. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command, has issued instructions to cancel the order in question.

Sandhurst Cadets Ungazetted

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of some hundred cadets who left Sandhurst in December and are still waiting to be gazetted, and are thus wasting months in enforced idleness without pay; and whether he can hold out any hope of their being gazetted in the near future.

MR. HALDANE: I am aware of the delay that has necessarily occurred in gazetting these cadets and I hope that arrangements can soon be made for appointing them to regiments.

Territorial Forces Bill.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): On behalf of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will consent to prepare a Return showing the enactments adapted or applied by the Territorial Forces Bill, analogous to the Returns granted by the Board of Agriculture in respect of the Butter Bill and by the Local Government Board in respect of the Public Health Bill.

MR. HALDANE: Yes, Sir. A Return will be prepared and circulated.

Colombo Port Trust.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Ceylon Government have now consented to the establishment of a port trust for Colombo; and, if not, will he explain why this has not been done.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The Secretary of State has received no communication from the Ceylon Government on this subject, but he shares the view which that Government is understood to hold, that it is premature to consider the question until the harbour works have been completed. There is an advisory Harbour Board on which representatives of the mercantile community have seats.

MR. SMEATON was understood to ask why this port, the fifth largest in the world, was so badly managed.

MR. CHURCHILL replied that he would convey the views of the hon. Member to the Secretary of State.

Police Outrages on the Niger.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been directed to the outrages by the police at Abok, on the Niger, in the Ubaikwam district, and to the proceedings before the Court; and if he will take steps to prevent any repetition of such scenes and to give the natives confidence in British justice, and insist that no such similar expeditions shall be permitted without a British officer or Commissioner being in charge of the native police.

MR. CHURCHILL: No Report from the Governor on this subject has been received, but the attention of the Secretary of State has been called to the statements in the local newspapers, from which it appears that the native police concerned in the outrages were condemned to sentences from one year's hard labour to three years penal servitude. It also appears that the offences were not committed at Abok (which is the headquarters of a district) but at a village called Ubaikwam in the Abok district. The Governor will be consulted as to the method to be employed in future to prevent a repetition of similar occurrences.

Indian Traders in Natal.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the recent cases of administration of the Natal Dealers' Licences Act in the Klip River division, the Lower Umzimkulu division, and the city of Maritzburg, and especially to the cases of Ismail Moosajee, A. M. Kharva, Goorahoo and Lala, Ameer and Hoosen, Mahomed and Amod, Sunthsing, Valli Rasool, Fyzerally and Mawlabuccus, Moosajee Ismail and Company, in the Klip River division, P. N. Chetty, Maritzburg, Mahomed Saduck Vahed, Marburg, Natal, British-Indian shopkeepers of standing, who were refused renewals of their shop licences by the Board on appeal from the decision of the licensing officer; whether he has perused the Report of the evidence in the various cases referred to, and the remarks of counsel, the licensing officer, and the Board; if not, whether he will do so; and whether he will take steps to impress upon the Government of Natal that this law must not be used as an instrument for exterminating the British-Indian trader in that colony.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir. My attention has been drawn to these cases. The Secretary of State is communicating with the Government of Natal with regard to them.

Uganda Railway.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies how wide a strip of land on either side of the Uganda Railway was made State property when the railway was built; what area of this land has since been alienated by lease or sale; and whether any special or increased expropriations were made at the termini of the line.

MR. CHURCHILL: The width of the strip in question was two miles, *i.e.*, one mile on each side of the railway from the limit of the territory leased from the Sultan of Zanzibar to Lake Victoria. No additional land was acquired at the termini except what was required for stations, water-supply, and subsidiary works. The revenue derived from land sold or leased within the zone is now credited to the general revenue of the Protectorate, and no separate figures are available as to the area of land alienated within the zone. The latest return of grants of land in the East Africa Protectorate, which includes, but does not distinguish, those within the zone, will be found in the Command Paper, No. 2,902 of April last.

South African Land Settlement Fund.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies to what other purposes £500,000 out of the £3,000,000 allotted to land settlement in South Africa has been temporarily diverted; when that £500,000 will be restored to its original purpose; and by whom will it be administered when so restored.

MR. CHURCHILL: From the Transvaal Guaranteed Loan statement printed on pages 93–94 of Cd. 3,028, the hon. Member will observe that it was estimated that the loan account would be temporarily overspent on 30th June, 1907, chiefly owing to an excess on Head III. Repatriation and Compensation. As the advances made by way of loan under that head are recovered, the loan account will be adjusted, and it is not anticipated that there will be any eventual excess of expenditure. In the meanwhile the Intercolonial Council thought it proper to delay certain expenditure originally approved, including the £500,000 referred to by the hon. Member. (See page 58 of Cd. 2,563.) It is of course within the power of the Intercolonial Council, with the approval of the Secretary of State, to restore that sum, when available, to its original purpose; but there is no obligation upon them to do so, and were the sum restored it would be administered by the Land Settlement Board in accordance with the terms of Section 52 (2) (c) of the Letters Patent, subject to any action which might be taken under Section 49 (2) of the Transvaal Letters Patent. (See pages 9 and 11 of Cd. 3250.)

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state whether the lands purchased under Lord Milner's land-settlement scheme for South Africa, but not occupied, when the new Land Board comes into existence will be administered by the new Land Board; and, if not, by whom, and how will they be administered.

MR. CHURCHILL: Lands not occupied by settlers will not be transferred to or administered by the Land Board, but will be dealt with by the Colonial Government along with other Crown lands.

Forced Labour in Fiji.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that forced labour is being employed for the construction of a Government road between Suva and Navua, Fiji, payment to each man amounting to about 4s. per annum; and that the Governor, in view of the fact that the pay was inadequate to provide the natives with clothing, decreed that they should have freedom of choice of work during November and December, so that they might obtain wages to buy clothing; whether the natives in one district were prosecuted for claiming this privilege and were fined, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment; and will he say what action he proposes to take.

MR. CHURCHILL: I informed the hon. Member on 26th February that the Governor of Fiji would be asked for a Report upon the subject.

British East Africa—Native Unrest.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give any information with reference to the unrest among the native population of British East Africa; and if he can state what steps, if any, are being taken to protect settlers living at a distance from the railway.

MR. CHURCHILL: A telegram has been received from the Acting Commissioner of the British East Africa Protectorate stating that there is not the slightest foundation for the report of a native rising.

Chinese Labour Contracts in South Africa.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Secretary of State has informed or intends to inform the Government of the Transvaal that His Majesty's Government will advise the Crown to veto any legislation which allows the renewal of contracts with the Chinese already in South Africa.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir, the Secretary of State has no intention of adopting such a course. The Government cannot anticipate the advice they would tender to the Crown upon legislation which has no existence.

New Hebrides Convention.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if there is anything in the New Hebridean Convention concluded by His Majesty's Government to ensure even the minimum wages of 4d. a day, or 10s. a month, to the black labourers bartered under it, if agreement be entered into to take 1d. a month or other lower wage; and further, what precaution has been taken to safeguard the Kanaka females, if sufficiently tall, from becoming the victims of a black slave traffic for the convict population of New Caledonia.

MR. CHURCHILL: If a labourer proposes to engage himself at a rate lower than the current rate of wages in the group, the officers who will be appointed to ensure that he fully understands the terms of his engagement will of course point out the fact to him; but if this provision proves insufficient to prevent such agreements as the hon. and gallant Member suggests, it is competent for the High Commissioner to make it a condition of issuing the recruiting licence required under Article XXXI. of the Convention that no labourers shall be engaged below a fixed rate. The responsibility for the welfare of all natives recruited in the New Hebrides for service in New Caledonia will rest in the future, as it has done in the past, with the French Government, and His Majesty's Government desire to repudiate the suggestion of scandalous maladministration on the part of that Government which is contained in the concluding words of this Question.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Have the Government taken any steps to carry out the unanimous wishes of Australasia with regard to the penal settlement at New Caledonia?

MR. CHURCHILL: Obviously notice should be given of that Question.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Is it the intention of the Government to instruct the High Commissioner to fix a minimum rate of wage?

MR. CHURCHILL: I must ask for the notice of that also.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether there is any method otherwise than by a fresh Convention of modifying that part of Article 46 of the New Hebrides Convention, which provides that in default of agreement a labourer's wages shall be taken to be 10s. a month, and that part of Article 56 which provides that it is only in the event of conviction on a serious charge, or for a second offence, that the recruiting licence may be withdrawn.

MR. CHURCHILL: Like all international agreements, the New Hebrides Convention can only be modified by the consent of both parties. With regard to the provisions of Article XLVI. (4), I may refer the noble Lord to the Answer given by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies to the hon. and gallant Member for St. Andrews Burghs on the 21st February†; and with regard to Article LVI. (4), I may point out that recruiting licences are valid for one year only, and it is within the discretion of the High Commissioners and their delegates to refuse licences if they are not satisfied as to the character of the applicants.

LORD R. CECIL: Does the hon. Gentleman mean to say that those Articles can or cannot be modified?

MR. CHURCHILL: Under the Convention certain regulations can be framed; but those regulations can only be framed for the purpose of carrying out the effect of the Convention.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Has any provision been made so far for a minimum rate?

MR. CHURCHILL: That does not arise out of the Question.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Are any negotiations going on with the French Government in order to modify these Articles?

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir. It is not proposed to carry on any negotiations with the French Government until after the Colonial Premiers have reached London.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Although the Convention can only be altered with the consent of both parties, cannot either party make regulations independently of the other for labour outside the New Hebrides?

Diplomatic Service—Linguistic Requirements.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any new regulations have been issued regarding the linguistic attainments required of diplomatic and consular officers; and, if the Answer be in the affirmative, whether he will cause a copy of such regulations to be placed in the Library.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir EDWARD GREY): Candidates for the Foreign Office and the Diplomatic Service can at present take up any two of the following languages:—Latin, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Modern Greek, Arabic. Under the new regulations which will come into force on 1st July, 1907, they can take up Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Arabic, and Italian or Spanish, all optional subjects. French and German are obligatory, and will continue to be so. There will be no change in the linguistic requirements for the Consular Service. Copies of the regulations will be placed in the Library.

The Hague Conference.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by whom and in what way is it proposed to raise the question of a reduction of armaments at The Hague Conference.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend can say nothing as to how this or any other subject is going to be raised at the Conference till the final invitation is issued, and even these questions of procedure must be settled by agreement with the Powers concerned.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): Has there been an exchange of views with the United States Government on the subject?

MR. RUNCIMAN: That Question had better be put on the Paper.

Labour at San Thomé and Principé.

MR. ARKWRIGHT (Hereford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has yet received the Report of His Majesty's Consul at Boma with regard to the conditions of labour in San Thomé and Principé.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Report has been received, and my right hon. friend would refer the hon. Member for Hereford to the Answer given on this subject to the hon. Member for Norfolk, N. on the 29th October last.‡

Taxation on Public House Licence Values.

MR. WEDGWOOD: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of the chairman of a large London brewery that the value of public-house licences is now between £200,000,000 and £250,000,000, or an annual value of about £10,000,000; and whether he can see his way to recovering for the community by taxation some part of this monopoly value recently presented to the licence holders.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1030.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxiii., 675.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I have not seen the particular statement to which my hon. friend refers, but the whole question of the terms upon which licences are granted and renewed is under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Provision for Old Age.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposes to introduce this session a scheme which will relieve old age and infirmity from the necessity of appealing to the present forms of relief for distress.

MR. ASQUITH: I am not in a position to make any statement on this subject.

Income Tax Collection.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether final notices demanding immediate payment of the income-tax, under threats, were recently issued in Scotland just about the same time that the first reminders of the income-tax were sent out in England; and whether he will give instructions that proceedings shall not be pushed to extremities in Scotland against those whose payments of the tax have been delayed, until the date when the same steps to enforce payment shall be taken against English taxpayers in arrears.

MR. ASQUITH: The first day on which the second and third (or final) notices can be issued is the same in both England and Scotland. But it is of course impossible that they should in all cases be issued on the same day. Steps to enforce payment in cases where the tax still remains unpaid are now being taken in both countries. As I have said before, I am anxious to establish equality of treatment between the two countries, but I think any change ought to be in the direction rather of increased stringency in England than of increased laxity in Scotland.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the methods of collection of income-tax followed in England are regulated by any Statute or Act of Parliament, or whether they can be recalled or altered by himself; and whether, having regard to the more tardy collection of the tax in England than in Scotland, he will say if this delay in collection arises from the system of collection in England.

MR. ASQUITH: The law makes the tax payable both in England and Scotland on or before 1st January in each year. The regulations relating to collection of tax after that date must of necessity be regarded as administrative. The working of the regulations in England and Scotland respectively is at present receiving my careful attention.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS: When will the House have an opportunity of discussing this matter?

MR. ASQUITH: I cannot say at the moment.

The National Credit.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if his attention has been called to the heavy discount at which British Government stocks now stand in the markets of the world; and, having regard to the fact that the national credit has never been brought so low within the memory of the present generation, if he proposes to take any steps to restore it.

MR. ASQUITH: I fully recognise the serious character of the decline which has taken place in the capital value of our securities of recent years, but I cannot accept the statement that our credit is at the present moment lower than it has ever been within the memory of the present generation. The old Three per cent. Consols, which were for many years generally regarded as the premier security of the world, could so recently as 1885 be purchased as low as 94⅝, and for no single year of their long history did they consistently stand above 100. A price of 100 for a 3 per cent. stock when translated into terms of a 2½ per cent. stock becomes 83⅓. The lowest price recently touched by our present 2½ per cent. Consols was just below 84½. Many of the causes which have contributed to the decline not only of British Government stocks, but also of most other high class securities, which has taken place during the last ten years, are international in their operation and independent of Government control. During the last twelve months I may instance the increased demand for money and consequent rise in the ruling rates of interest, due to exceptional industrial and commercial activity at home and abroad and to the necessity for replacing the capital destroyed by the San Francisco earthquake and other disasters. On the other hand, the enormous increase of our national expenditure within recent years, the neglect to make adequate provision for the redemption of existing debt and the freedom with which new obligations have been created has, in my opinion, undoubtedly affected the national credit. The steps we propose to take—and are taking—for its restoration are to reduce expenditure, to strengthen the sinking fund and to avoid borrowing for current expenditure on services such as Naval and Military works which ought to be paid for out of current Revenue. It is my belief that only by persevering in this course can a permanent improvement be secured.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman's attention had been drawn to the misappropriation of nearly half a million of money from the sinking fund within the last few days by the Secretary of State for War?

MR. ASQUITH: There has been no misappropriation. The money was applied to the reduction of capital expenditure; and it has been approved by a vote of the House.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman's attention had been called to the fact that that morning British 2½ per cent. Consols could be bought for the April account at 85½, which yielded about £2 18s.; and that Imperial German 3 per cent. could be bought at 84½, which yielded £3 10s.?

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked whether, on the other hand, the attention of the right hon. Gentleman had been called to the high price of French Rentes?

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the lowest point Consols touched was in 1885, the year in which Home Rule was threatened; and is it a mere coincidence that when Home Rule is once more threatened Consols should fall to a low point?

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Gentleman is quite inaccurate. The Home Rule Bill was introduced in 1886.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: The word I used was "threatened."

Judges' Circuit Allowances.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether His Majesty's Judges, when on circuit, receive £7 10s. a day table money in addition to salary, travelling expenses, and free lodgings provided by the authorities of the various counties visited; and whether at Bristol and Newcastle the corporations defray the whole cost of entertaining the Judges.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Yes, Sir, a Judge receives, when on circuit, an allowance of £7 10s. 0d. a day for the subsistence of himself and his suite. He is also repaid his travelling expenses, and receives, of course, his salary. The duty of providing lodgings for the Judges rests with the Sheriffs of the counties visited, and the Sheriffs receive allowances from the Treasury, according to a fixed scale, in respect of the expenses thus incurred by them. I have no knowledge of the practice referred to at Bristol and Newcastle.

LORD R. CECIL: Are not the travelling expenses of the Judges' staff included in the £7 10s.?

MR. RUNCIMAN: The travelling expenses of the Judges' staff are also paid.

Case of Charles Weatherley.

*Mr. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that, on the 13th February last, Charles Weatherley, age 22, was sentenced at Newington Sessions to three months' imprisonment for breaking into a house and stealing a tobacco-pouch, pipe, cigarette-case, and snuff-box; whether he is aware that this man served for two years in His Majesty's Navy and was sent by the Admiralty to Gloucester Lunatic Asylum, suffering from the effects of brain fever and a sunstroke at the end of that service; whether he is aware that this man has since been in another asylum and is in fact a lunatic; and whether he will cause immediate inquiries to be made into the case with a view to his treatment as such.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W): I have made inquiries, and I find that upon this prisoner's reception in prison after conviction the Medical Officer was notified that he had been in Gloucester Asylum and Maidstone Asylum continuously from August, 1904, to October, 1905, when he was discharged cured. Special attention was in consequence given to the prisoner's mental condition; but since his conviction he has shown no sign whatever of any mental unsoundness. On reception he stated to the Medical Officer that he feigned insanity for the purpose of getting discharged from the Royal Navy, and he persists in this statement. The prisoner's mental condition will continue to receive careful attention, but at present no further action on my part appears to be necessary or possible.

Separation Orders.

Mr. J. M. HENDERSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total number of separation orders made by the magistrates of England during the years 1905 and 1906; and what was the total number of decrees of judicial separation made during the same years by the Judges of the Probate Division of the High Court.

Mr. GLADSTONE: The figures for 1906 will not be available for the next three months. The total number of separation orders made by justices in 1904 was 6,752, and in 1905 the figure was 6,733. The number of decrees for judicial separation was twenty-two in 1904 and twenty-five in 1905.

House of Commons Police.

Mr. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the policemen on duty in the House of Commons have received no extra pay for extra duties last session; and whether he can see his way clear to rectify this, and at the same time to make provision for payment for extra time on duty at levees, etc.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Police on duty at the Houses of Parliament receive, while so employed, a special allowance of a shilling a day in addition to the ordinary pay of their rank. In addition to this, they receive compensation for all extra duty in the shape of "time off" and also of special leave. This is, I think, sufficient to meet the requirements of the case.

Pentonville Prison Warders.

Mr. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that two of the warders employed at His Majesty's prison at Pentonville are about to be removed to Devizes and Liverpool; whether he is aware that these men and their co-workers believe the reason for such removal is because they took part in asking for a consideration of their terms of employment; and whether he can recommend to the proper authorities the retention of these men and thus remove the above impression.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Such transfers are usual in the prison service, and officers have often to submit to them in the public interest, even at some inconvenience to themselves and their families. Both these officers have appealed, however, to the Commissioners against such transfer on this ground, and the Commissioners on full consideration do not propose to insist upon the transfers. There is no ground whatever for the impression alleged to be entertained by these officers that their removal was ordered because they took part in asking for a consideration of their terms of employment. Meetings for such a purpose are expressly allowed by Standing Order, subject to the authority of the Governor, and all officers in the prison service are aware that no obstacle is placed in the way of the legitimate expression of their wants in an orderly and approved manner.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce legislation to extend the benefits of The Workmen's Compensation Act to all classes of employees.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Act of last session extended the benefits of the previous Acts to some 6,000,000 persons, and very few classes of employees now remain outside it. I see no ground at present for further legislation.

MR. CATHCART WASON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that a number of employers were afraid to employ casual employees, such as charwomen and gardeners, so that a large number of those classes were now unable to find employment.

MR. GLADSTONE: I do not know how that can be, as the Act has not come into force.

MR. CATHCART WASON said there was a feeling among a number of people that the impending Act was responsible for that state of things.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Is it not the fact that that class of labourer can be insured for twelve months against all risk for 2s. 6d.?

[No Answer was returned.]

London County Council Loans.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state the total amount of the loans contracted by the London County Council between March 1889 and March 1907; what sums remained unpaid on 1st March last; and what is the annual charge thereon for interest and sinking fund.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have communicated with the County Council on this subject, and am informed that the total amount of the loans contracted by them between March 1889 and 31st December 1906, the latest date for which the figures available was, £46,625,500. This sum included a total of £10,248,945 which was advanced to various local bodies in London. The net debt (*i.e.* outstanding debt, less moneys appropriated or provided for its redemption) was in respect of the above loans on the 31st December last £27,742,585. The charge for interest and sinking fund in respect of this debt will be for the year 1906–7 approximately £1,347,725.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked whether there was any fund available at the Local Government Board for the public audit of the London County Council accounts.

MR. JOHN BURNS: In my judgment such funds are unnecessary and such an audit is undesirable. The same auditors have recently been examining West Ham, Poplar, Hammersmith, and Westminster, and they can be relied upon to do their duty fearlessly and impartially against every local body in this country.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Have there not been some difficulty and many prosecutions in West Ham?

MR. JOHN BURNS: And there would be in Sheffield and in Spring-gardens if the facts warranted them.

SIR EDWIN CORNWALL (Bethnal Green, N.E.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could arrange that the accounts of the City Corporation should be subject to the same audit as the London County Council accounts.

MR. JOHN BURNS: As an ideal, and theoretically, that is an object to be aimed at. I trust the City Corporation will on its own account have the wisdom some day to come within the purview of the Local Government Board's audit.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: How much of this million will fall on the rates and how much will come from profit-making undertakings.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I should like notice of that; I should prefer not to speculate as to the proportion.

MR. AUSTIN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) asked whether the Local Government Board's audit showed profit on undertakings.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Yes; the Local Government Board's audit discloses both to the Council and to the inquiring ratepayer all the facts relating to the Council's remunerative and unremunerative undertakings. So far as I know by experience, nothing is hidden; everything is accessible to the auditor in every respect.

Licence Values and Rate Assessments.

MR. WEDGWOOD: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of the chairman of a large London brewery that, in assessment for local rates, the value of the licence has always been assessed as a permanent one, and owners have made their payments on this basis; whether this practice is universal; and, if not, whether he will urge local authorities which do not assess the value of the licence to do so in future, so as to avoid any inequality of treatment.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My attention has been drawn to a statement in the Press to the effect referred to. There is no doubt that in assessing licensed premises the existence of the licence must be taken into account; but I cannot say whether the basis adopted by assessment committees in applying this principle is uniform. I have no jurisdiction in the matter, and I could not undertake to intervene with regard to it.

Spotted Fever.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can give the ages of persons attacked with cerebro-spinal meningitis during the present epidemic; if the epidemic is due to blood-poisoning; and if there is any frequently occurring mode of introducing poison directly into the blood without its passing through the digestive organs, other than vaccination.

MR. JOHN BURNS: In England and Wales, with which alone I am concerned, there is no epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis. Only a few sporadic cases have been reported, and by no means all of these have been proved to be really cases of the disease in question. The ages of the patients in the reported cases have varied from seven months to thirty-nine years, and more than 50 per cent. of them were aged five years and upwards. I understand that the disease is by some authorities regarded as due to blood-poisoning; but that there is no relation whatever between it and vaccinia.

MR. LUPTON: How can the right hon. Gentleman show there is no relation?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I shall be delighted to answer the hon. Member if he will put his Question on the Paper.

Administration of the Vaccination Acts.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, seeing that his predecessor's general order of the 18th October, 1898, and amended regulations for carrying out the Vaccination Acts, have been decided by the Courts of law to impose the duty of prosecuting defaulters on vaccination officers, independently of, or even in defiance of, the orders of boards of guardians, he proposes to replace those officials under the orders of the guardians, and to revoke the instructions to prosecute defaulters without reference to such guardians.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am advised that I am not empowered to alter the Order in such a way as to give the guardians the control over the vaccination officer which I understand my hon. friend to desire.

New York Unemployment Returns.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if the Returns of unemployment in New York State enable him to distinguish between those unemployed through weather and those unemployed through lack of work; and, if so, will he state what are the percentages of unemployment through lack of work only in the years 1903, 1904, and 1905.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I sent the hon. Member, in connection with his Question on Monday last, a statement which I had had prepared for him from the Quarterly Bulletins of the New York State Department of Labour showing the percentages of persons unemployed from various causes. I do not think it would be possible to distinguish the percentage due to the particular cause referred to throughout the whole of the period in question, but in any case I would ask the hon. Member to allow me to refer him for further information on this subject to the Returns themselves.

Mr. REMNANT: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, when he said the other day he had made all allowances, he had taken into consideration the difference in the climatic conditions of the two countries?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: There is no absolute standard or comparison available. I took approximate *data* and if the hon. Member will supplement his investigation by an examination of the 23rd Report issued in June, 1903, he will see there is not much difference between what I said and what is contained in the Report.

Mr. REMNANT: I have done so, and find it is entirely the opposite.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I think the hon. Member consulted the preceding volume.

Railway Delays.

Mr. FERENS (Hull, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that there is delay on the part of railway companies in dealing with communications from traders as to delays or excessive rates; and whether he will consider the expediency of bringing in further legislation so as to increase the limited powers which are at present vested in the Board under Section 31 of The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs): I sympathise with the hon. Member in his desire to expedite the settlement of traders' grievances against railway companies. I can assure him that no delay takes place at the Board of Trade. I am not satisfied that the present machinery for enabling those grievances to be adjusted between representatives of traders and railway companies is adequate for the purpose, but I am not at present able to make any announcement as to amending legislation.

German Import Returns.

Mr. REMNANT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that according to the Board of Trade exports are, as a rule, credited in the Board of Trade Returns to the country of ultimate destination, he can explain the discrepancy which has been noted between the German and British Returns as to the values of the agricultural machinery passing from the United Kingdom to Germany.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I can only refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave to a similar Question which he addressed to me on 7th March.†

Austrian Exports.

Mr. REMNANT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that according to the Board of Trade Returns the consignments of glass and glassware from Austria-Hungary to the United Kingdom amounted to £116,433 in 1904, and £175,913 in 1905, whereas according to the official Austrian Returns exports to the United Kingdom amounted to £354,000 in 1904, and £294,000 in 1905; and whether he can explain the discrepancy in these two sets of figures.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: The figures are correctly quoted by the hon. Member from the official Returns. From an examination which has been made of the Austro-Hungarian and German trade statistics, the explanation of the discrepancy would appear to be mainly that a good deal of Austro-Hungarian glass is really consigned to the United Kingdom from Germany. The countries from which goods are consigned are not in all cases the countries of actual origin.

Colonial Navigation Conference.

Mr. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether a Navigation Conference between the Colonies is to be held preliminary to the Colonial Conference; whether the power of the Colonies with reference to the regulation of coasting trade will then be discussed; and whether Canada has been invited to take part in that discussion.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 97̄.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The Navigation Conference to be held preliminary to the Colonial Conference is the Conference between representatives of the Imperial Government and of Australia and New Zealand arising out of certain legislation and legislative proposals with reference, among other matters, to the regulation of the coasting trade of those Colonies. It has not been thought necessary to invite Canada, or any other Colony, to this preliminary Conference, as it will limit its consideration to matters affecting Australia and New Zealand.

MR. EVELYN CECIL: Considering the large Canadian interests involved will the right hon. Gentleman consider the propriety of sending an invitation to Canada?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That Question should be addressed to the Colonial Office.

Surrey Schools and Public Meetings.

MR. MARNHAM (Surrey, Chertsey): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the school managers of the following elementary schools in the Chertsey Division of Surrey, Worplesdon (Perry Hill and Wood Street), Wyke, and Pyrford, and the owners of the elementary schools at Ockham and East Horsley, refuse to let the said schools for public meetings; and whether, in view of the fact that these schools are largely, and in some cases wholly, maintained by the public, he will confer with the Prime Minister as to the practicability of giving effect to legislation which shall provide for the letting for public meetings of all schools receiving rate or grant aid.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): I think some legislation in the direction indicated by the hon. Member is certainly desirable, but I fear it will not be practicable for me to secure the passing of the necessary Bill this session.

Lancaster and the Education Grant.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what will be the estimated proportion payable to the county of Lancaster in respect of the £100,000 to be specially voted in next year's Estimates.

MR. MCKENNA: I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave upon this subject on Thursday last.†

Lancaster New Council Schools.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what was the average cost per child accommodated in the new council schools erected in the county of Lancaster during the last year, including outlay upon sites, buildings, equipment, and sinking fund.

MR. MCKENNA: I have no information as to the actual sums expended last year by the county council of Lancaster upon the provision of new schools, but if the hon. Member desires it I will ascertain the amount of the loans sanctioned for new schools, and the number of places provided in those schools.

MR. ASHLEY: When shall I put down the Question again?

MR. MCKENNA: I will get the information for the hon. Member.

Non-Provided Schools—Teachers' Salaries.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he will furnish the promised information with respect to the salaries of teachers in non-provided schools.

MR. MCKENNA: I hope to lay the statement on the Table early this week.

Empire Day in the Schools.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that about 14,000 children attending public elementary schools at Sheffield, intend holding a great Empire Day demonstration at Bramall

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 243.

Lane on 20th June next, a date closely associated with the life of the late Queen Victoria; and whether, with a view to encouraging a similar spirit of loyalty and patriotism among the youth of this country generally, he will circularise the various education authorities in Great Britain and Ireland suggesting that they should copy the example being set by Sheffield.

MR. MCKENNA: I hardly think it comes within the province of the Board of Education to instigate the holding of demonstrations.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Is the celebration of Empire Day a demonstration?

MR. MCKENNA: It is so described by the hon. and gallant Gentleman in his Question.

Grant for Average Attendance in Schools.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the Board of Education, in computing the average attendance at any school for the purposes of a grant, bases the calculation on the average attendance for the whole year, or for some shorter period.

MR. MCKENNA: The calculation is based on the period for which the grant is claimed.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: Is the period not usually one year?

MR. MCKENNA: The grant is usually claimed for one year.

Clerks to Magistrates and Assize Prosecutions.

MR. HENRY (Shropshire, Wellington): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General if he will consider the advisability of precluding clerks to the justices of the peace of county benches from participating, either by conducting or instructing, in cases that may be committed by the magistrates to the assizes or quarter sessions.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): This subject has been considered, and dealt with in the Report of the Judicature Committee. I will give the matter my attention. Considerations of some weight have been advanced in favour of continuing the present system.

Illegal Trawling off the Scottish Coast.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many cases of illegal trawling have been reported by the coastguard at Scottish stations within the last five years, and how many convictions have been secured as the result of those reports.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): Twelve cases and eight convictions.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many cases of illegal trawling have been reported each year by the lightkeepers at Tiumpan Head, Island of Lewis; how many convictions have been secured as the result of such reports; will he state what distance the lightkeepers have to travel when required to give evidence in a court of law; and what expenses they have been allowed.

MR. SINCLAIR: 1901, two observed, no prosecutions; 1902, nine observed, four prosecutions, three convictions; 1903, three observed, no prosecutions, two convictions; 1904–5, *nil*; 1906, two observed, one prosecution, not proven. The lightkeepers at Tiumpan Head have to travel nine miles when required to give evidence in a court of law. I have not been able to ascertain what expenses the lightkeepers have been allowed.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): Were these prosecutions for trawling within the three-mile limit?

MR. WEIR: No.

MR. SINCLAIR'S reply was inaudible.

MR. A. WILLIAMSON (Elgin and Nairn): Have the lighthouse-keepers now been instructed to report all cases of apparently illegal trawling?

MR. SINCLAIR: I understand so

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): Are they allowed to leave the lighthouses in order to give evidence?

MR. SINCLAIR: Yes, provided they get a substitute to do their duty.

Mellon Udrigle Boat Slip.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the Congested Districts Board have received a petition, signed by upwards of seventy fishermen, crofters, and others, urging the establishment of a boat-slip at Mellon Udrigle, at the entrance of Gruniard Bay, Ross-shire; and, in view of the fact that the proposed boat-slip is urgently needed, will he state whether the Board can see their way to provide a grant for its construction.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Congested Districts Board received this petition on the 8th March, but the statutory course in such matters is that those locally interested should move their county council to consider their case, and, if so advised, to apply for a grant to help the council to construct and maintain the proposed marine work. The fishermen were so informed on 14th March.

Aiguish Crofter Settlement.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state what steps are being taken to improve the breed of cattle in possession of the new crofter settlers at Aiguish, Island of Lewis.

MR. SINCLAIR: The new crofter settlers at Aiguish have as other crofters the same opportunities of making applications to the Congested Districts Board for the purposes indicated by my hon. friend.

Balintore Harbour.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the harbour at Balintore, Ross-shire, which was constructed in accordance with plans prepared by the engineers employed by the Fishery Board for Scotland, will he call for a Report to ascertain the cost of putting the harbour in a serviceable condition.

MR. SINCLAIR: The harbour plans were those approved by the fishermen and the harbour trustees, and the engineer was employed by them and not by the Fishery Board. The Board's share in the transaction was a grant of £5,805 to the trustees. The burden of maintaining the harbour and the cost of any report on its condition fall to be borne by the harbour trustees.

Portmahomack Harbour.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that the harbour at Portmahomack, Ross-shire, is quite unsuited to the requirements of the fishing population in the district, will he communicate with the proprietor with a view to ascertain on what terms he would relinquish possession of the harbour or place it in a satisfactory condition.

MR. SINCLAIR: It would seem desirable that in the first place those interested, and not the Secretary for Scotland, should approach the proprietor.

Mine Water and River Girvan.

MR. BEALE (Ayrshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the threatened recommencement of the discharge of mine water into the River Girvan of such a nature and in such quantities as to destroy the salmon and other fish; whether he is aware that the provisions of the existing Acts for prevention of river pollution were, on former occasions of such discharge, found insufficient to prevent the almost total destruction of fish life in the river; and whether he will take steps, by amendment of those Acts or other legislation, to prevent the discharge into rivers of all mine or other water of such a nature and in such quantities as above mentioned.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no official information, but I understand the facts are substantially as are stated by my hon. friend. It would seem to be the duty of parties interested in the river, in the first instance, to raise objections to the threatened discharge of mine water. I should like to be quite clear that existing legislation is insufficient to meet the difficulty before considering any change in the law.

Scottish Riparian Rights.

MR. MENZIES (Lanarkshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether in view of the desire of the people of Scotland for knowledge as to their rights to fish for trout, sea trout, and salmon, not only on the River Tweed, but on all the streams, rivers, and lochs of Scotland, as against the separate rights, exclusive or otherwise, of the landed proprietors on both sides of these streams and rivers and surrounding these lochs, he will, under these circumstances, bring in a Bill to unify, simplify, and assimilate all general Scots law on the subject, and, if necessary, make such alterations as will bring these laws into accord with modern ideas.

MR. SINCLAIR: My hon. friend's Question is comprehensive and raises points of great importance, which affect Scotland as a whole; all that I can say at this moment is that they are before the Government and are receiving careful consideration.

Dr. Duncan's Dismissal.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if his attention has been directed to the facts of Dr. Duncan's dismissal; that the reason given, viz., the refusal of Dr. Duncan to implement the agreement entered into by him with the parish council is incorrect; and that Dr. Duncan has been and is ready to carry out any arrangement or agreement entered into by him with the parish council; and if it is possible for him to take any action with the view of checking any injustice.

MR. SINCLAIR: I understand that the statement made in reply to my hon. friend's Question on 26th February, that Dr. Duncan failed to implement an agreement made with him three years ago to appoint an assistant, is correct, and that his recent offer to carry out this arrangement was held by the parish councils employing him to have come too late.

Norwegian Trawlers and the Moray Firth.

MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that the Norwegian Government has issued orders to all Norwegian trawlers to cease from trawling in the Moray Firth, and warning them that in the event of proceedings being taken against them in Scotland for so trawling they need not expect the support of the Norwegian Government, whether he has now issued orders for the prosecution of Norwegian as well as of cases of British subjects in all contraventions of the Moray Firth by-laws.

MR. SINCLAIR: No, Sir. It is not possible at present to alter the instructions issued to the authorities in Scotland.

Scottish Medical Officers of Poor Houses.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he can state how many appeals to the Local Government Board (Scotland) have been lodged during the last five years by medical officers of poor houses against dismissal by local authorities.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am informed that there has been no attempt by any Poor House Committee during the last five years to dismiss a medical officer without the consent of the Local Government Board, and that consequently there have been no appeals.

Fishmongers' Company and Scottish Fishery Regulations.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to a notice issued by the clerk of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, Fishmongers' Hall, London, and headed Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Acts, 1828 to 1868, warning fishermen and others against the taking of salmon or sea trout without a legal right or permission to do so, under a penalty of £5 and liability to forfeit boats and nets so used, and claiming power to search all boats and receptacles, whether at sea or on shore, and declaring that the possession of such salmon or sea trout shall be *prima facie* evidence of intention to contravene the Acts; whether he is aware that the notice has been extensively circulated in the fishery districts of Scotland; whether the Scottish Office has been consulted in the matter; and whether he proposes to take any action.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have seen the notice referred to by my hon. friend. The Scottish Office was not consulted before it was issued. The wording of the notice is based upon the provisions of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act, 1868; and as that Act allows any person to prosecute for the enforcement of its provisions I cannot say that the Fishmongers' Company have exceeded their rights, nor have I any jurisdiction to interfere with their action.

MR. AINSWORTH: Are not the executive in Scotland competent to carry out the ordinary law without the assistance of the Fishmongers' Company in London?

MR. SINCLAIR: The Boards cannot override powers given by Statute.

General Aid Grant.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that Scotland's share of the General Aid Grant for the current year will amount to £305,618, and that it has recently been decided that it is open to any school board to apply its share of the grant or any portion thereof to improving the health conditions of its schools, will he consider the expediency of enabling school boards in the Highland crofting counties to apply a portion of the grant for the purpose of providing necessary meals for school children.

MR. SINCLAIR: The General Aid Grant is, like other grants, paid into the School Fund, and is therefore applicable to any purpose to which by law that fund is applicable. The question of whether the School Fund may be drawn upon for the purpose in question is one which is under consideration in connection with the Bill which I hope to introduce this week.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that Scotland's share of the General Aid Grant for the current year will amount to £305,618, will he state how much of that sum will fall to the share of Ross-shire, and, in view of the difficulty experienced in finding money in the Island of Lewis and other remote parts of the county for the construction of school footpaths, can he see his way to allow school boards to apply a portion of their share of the grant to the construction of footpaths where such paths are absolutely necessary.

MR. SINCLAIR: The General Aid Grant is not distributed according to counties, but in terms of the General Aid Grant Minute, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on the 11th March.

Detection of Poaching Trawlers.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if it is within the knowledge of the Government that rewards have been given to persons giving such evidence as would secure the conviction of poaching trawlers in other places than the Moray Firth; and whether, in view of the importance of the line fishing, and the waste of food and destruction of spawning grounds by trawling within the three-mile limit, he will take into consideration the expediency of adopting a similar policy.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no official information upon the subject. The funds of the Fishery Board for Scotland are not more than sufficient for their present duties.

British Capital in Illegal Trawlers.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he is aware of the fact that much, if not all, the capital employed in trawling illegally in the Moray Firth is British; and if he proposes to take any action to render such capital amenable to British laws.

MR. SINCLAIR: As my hon. friend is aware, the Government has announced its policy upon this subject and is endeavouring to prevent evasion of the law by British subjects.

Fisheries Protection.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the names, tonnage, and speed of the cruisers employed by the Fishery Board (Scotland) for the detection of illegal trawling.

MR. SINCLAIR: The following are the names, tonnage, and speed of the cruisers employed by the Fishery Board in the detection of illegal trawling:—

Cruiser.	Gross Tonnage.	Speed.
"Brenda"	174	12·5 knots.
"Minna"	280·63	12·75 ,,
"Freya"	280	12·5 ,,
"Vigilant"	185	11 ,,
H.M.S. "Ringdove"	805	about 9 or 12 knots with forced draft.

Mr. MORTON: Can the right hon. Gentleman give the speed of the trawlers?

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, Sir.

Mr. A. WILLIAMSON (Elgin and Nairn: Is it intended to provide any faster vessels?

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, Sir. No funds are available at present.

Jury Challenging at Roscommon Assizes.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the circumstance that Mr. Justice Kenny, at the Roscommon Assizes, on the acquittal of traversers after a trial by jury over which he presided as Commissioner of Assize, addressed the Crown Solicitor, Mr. M'Dermott, and directed him that no member of that particular jury be permitted to be sworn as a juror in any case which came before him; is Mr. M'Dermott under any obligation as the Crown Solicitor to take directions from a Judge with reference to the selection, or the challenging, or the ordering to stand aside of jurors, or is he still exclusively bound by the directions embodied in the last circular to Crown Solicitors framed by the Attorney-General.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange): I am informed that the facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. The Crown Solicitor is not under any obligation to take directions from a Judge with reference to the exercise of his discretion as to ordering jurors to stand aside. His only duty is to follow the rules laid down for the guidance of Crown Solicitors generally and to act under the directions of the Attorney-General for the time being.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): Did the Crown Solicitor carry out his instructions at this assize? Did he order that twelve jurors should stand aside?

Mr. CHERRY asked for notice.

Mr. LONSDALE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in this particular case the jury refused to convict even on the clearest evidence?

Mr. CHERRY: It is a fact that the jury acquitted the accused.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: In the directions to the Crown Solicitors is it implied that they are not in the slightest degree to be influenced by the action of the Judges in reference to executive matters?

Mr. CHERRY: There is nothing said in the directions about Judges one way or the other.

The Parliamentary Dinner Hour.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: On behalf of the hon Member for the Epping Division of Essex, I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the propriety of allowing an interval of half-an-hour for dinner, to commence after the Easter recess; or if he would allow the House an expression of independent opinion on the subject.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs): I see no reason to change the view of the question upon which the rules, as they now stand, were founded. Experience has confirmed the advantage of the uninterrupted sitting. With regard to the second part of the Question, whilst I am anxious to meet, as far as possible, the convenience of the Members, the advancement of business must remain our principal object.

Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will arrange that a day shall be given for the discussion of the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee before the closing of

Committee of Supply in the present session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I will bear the matter in mind, but it is too early in the session for me to be able to make a definite announcement.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that several Ministers are declining to discuss certain subjects on the ground that they can only be properly debated after the Report of the Public Accounts Committee is available? It therefore becomes important to know when the House will have an opportunity of considering that Report.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No doubt it is undesirable to forestall a decision of the Public Accounts Committee by a discussion in this House which could not be so well informed as after the issue of the Report. But that is rather a different matter to appointing a day for discussing the Report, and I should wish to reserve any announcement as to that.

Government Contracts and the Fair Wage Clause.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to ask the House to appoint the Committee to inquire into and report upon the working of the fair wage clause in Government contracts.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The hon. Member is, I think, under a misapprehension. The undertaking that I gave was that a Departmental Committee, not a Select Committee, should be appointed. The Committee is in process of formation.

Standing Orders.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will cause the Standing Orders affected by his proposals to be reprinted in such a way as will show the effect of his proposed alterations.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir. This will be done.

Scotland's Share of the Unemployed Grant.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in the distribution of the £200,000 grant for the unemployed, Scotland is not entitled to 11 per cent., £22,000, on the basis of the equivalent grant; and, if so, what steps he proposes to take to secure this sum for that country.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The basis of the allocation of the Grant was not defined when the Vote was granted; the allocation was left to be settled by the Treasury. The Vote was, however, given for the purpose of aiding the distress committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, where there was exceptional need for assistance in providing work for the unemployed. Hence in making the allocation between the three kingdoms regard was had to the needs of these committees, so far as they could be ascertained, and not to the principle of allocation which has been deemed applicable to grants in aid of local taxation; and I understand that my right hon. friend the Secretary for Scotland regards the needs of Scotland as having been met.

MR. MORTON: But is there no settled principle?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Not in the case of a grant of money like this; and I should think my hon. friend who is a great economist would not wish a larger amount of money to be voted than is necessary—even to Scotland.

MR. MORTON: But is it true economy to give to England what belongs to Scotland?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That is another story.

EDUCATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 86.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 86.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Friday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 108.]

NEW BILLS.

SATURDAY CLOSING OF PUBLIC HOUSES BILL.

"To provide for the Closing of Public Houses on Saturdays," presented by Mr. Bottomley; to be read a second time upon Monday, 1st April, and to be printed. [Bill 109.]

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL GAMBLING BILL.

"To prohibit dealings in options, marginal investments, futures, lottery bonds, 'bulls,' 'bears,' and other gambling transactions," presented by Mr. Bottomley; to be read a second time upon Monday, 1st April, and to be printed. [Bill 110.]

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Youthful Offenders; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Wedgwood; supported by Mr. Beck, Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Mallet, and Mr. Henry Joseph Wilson; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 111.]

TRAWLERS' REGULATION BILL.

"To provide for the suppression of illegal fishing by trawl vessels," presented by Mr. Morton; supported by Mr. Weir and Mr. Smeaton; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 26th March, and to be printed. [Bill 112.]

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.

"To extend the Hours of Polling at Parliamentary Elections," presented by Mr. Pickersgill; supported by Mr. Cooper, Sir Edwin Cornwall, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Lea, Mr. Bertram Straus, Mr. Wiles, and Mr. Philip Wilson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 113.]

LONDON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.

"To extend the Hours of Polling at the election of members of the London County Council and of the Metropolitan Borough Councils," presented by Mr. Dickinson; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 114.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in respect of Laundries," presented by Mr. Cameron Corbett; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 115.]

CONSOLIDATED FUND (NO. 1) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) called the attention of the House to one or two questions which had previously occupied the time of hon. Members, and upon one of which there had been a considerable consensus of opinion. He referred to the question of land settlement in South Africa. There had been several debates in the House, in the course of which hon. Members from both sides had advocated what he now rose to urge, viz., that something more should be done towards land settlement in the Orange River Colony. He recognised as far as the Transvaal was concerned that the question had practically been settled, the present Government, under amiable pressure from both sides of the House having consented to appoint a Land Board to deal with the lands upon which settlers had already settled in the Transvaal. That Board was to exist for five years unless before the expiration of that time an arrangement should be come to between the Board and the Government of the Colonies that the functions of the Board should cease. He would like to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was able to announce that the Board had been appointed.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): For the Transvaal.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: For the Transvaal. Could the hon. Gentleman announce the names of the Members of that Board, and exactly what the Board would have to do? In a speech made last year the hon. Gentleman told them he could not go closely into the details as to the work of the Board. The Board had for its duties to take over all moveable property vested in the Government, and to use all moneys paid to the Government by settlers in discharge of their obligation, and any money appropriated by the Inter-Colonial Council under the Transvaal Guarantee Loan of 1903. Those were the chief obligations of the Land Board. They had to administer certain money and protect the settlers already placed on the land. He wished to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the constitution of that Board, and with what moneys the Board would have to deal. There was the money which came in yearly from land already sold to the settlers under certain conditions and the £58,000 now in the hands of the Inter-Colonial Council. But there was also another important item, the £500,000, the greater part of which had been diverted from the purpose for which it was set aside by the British Government. They set aside for land settlement about £3,000,000 under the Guarantee Loan of £30,000,000; of that sum something like £2,500,000 had been spent. There remained £500,000 which had been diverted from its original purpose and devoted to repatriation. That money had gone to repatriate not Britishers alone, but Boers; indeed he was not sure it had not gone entirely to repatriate Boers. They did not know, but they ought to know what portion had gone to British settlers and what portion to Boer settlers. He suggested to the Prime Minister that, if the Land Board had nothing to do except to control the money due from land settlers which, subject to fair climatic conditions and good crops came in yearly, it gave very little security to the settlers established there. They asked that the Land Board should be established permanently, and that there should be at their disposal, for the purpose of buying land for British settlers, something more than the £22,000 represented by the money due from the people already settled. He wished to know what was to be done with the £58,000 in the hands of the Inter-Colonial Council, and whether they were going to get any of the £500,000 for the British settlers in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. If that sum were restored to the financial administration of the two Governments and placed at the disposal of the Land Board, something really effective might be done for the settlers; little enough had been done so far. He was certain that neither the Prime Minister nor the Under-Secretary for the Colonies was inclined to agree with any policy which would restrict British settlement in the Colonies. No one who had visited the South African Exhibition during the last three weeks could help being struck by the possibilities of those two Colonies. Let them take the Orange River Colony alone. They had wool there, which was obtaining a standard value in the British market. Under the old Boer conditions the wool was practically of no value upon the British market, but the wool recently shown at the South African Exhibition in Vincent Square was considered to be of the best possible quality. There was a great future for wool and fruit production in the Orange River Colony. The influence of British methods upon the agricultural development of the Colony during the last four years had been enormous. The improved methods adopted by Dutch settlers and Boer residents had generally increased the whole value of the productions of both the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. Those who were familiar with the history of French Canada knew that until within the last fifteen years the inhabitants of that Colony were a solid block, unresponsive to all the influences surrounding them, and there was scarcely any English spoken except in Montreal and Quebec. But since the invasion of industry there the aspect of affairs had been gradually changed, and now they found English spoken in every part of French Canada. If they had in the Orange River Colony simply the influence of one body of Boer settlers wedded to the soil and preserving their old ideas in the country, whilst in the towns British influence predominated, he believed it would be bad for the Colony as a whole. To make the people united and work harmoniously together it was necessary that there should be an English agricultural population as well as Dutch. That was the only way to bring about a well-balanced state of things and a proper distribution of power and population. If they could only get the population to work together for a common development both in the towns and in the country, he thought they might look forward with great hope to the future of our South African Colonies. Without a substantial settlement of British subjects in the Orange River Colony the path towards a good understanding would be greatly obstructed. He hoped that in granting the new Constitution which had been promised it would be fully realised that the Dutch were in a vast preponderance, and a certain section of the Dutch were entirely opposed to British settlers. He hoped the policy adopted in regard to land settlement would be a liberal one, and that the door would be thrown open to British settlers. He would like to read to the House a passage from a letter written by Dr. Adam Jameson, whose death the other day everybody in the House would lament. That gentleman came from Western Australia, and he had done a great work in connection with the Lands Department of the Transvaal. Dr. Adam Jameson wrote:—

> "I look upon this question as one of the very gravest importance, not only as a safeguard to the settlement which has already taken place, but also to meet the sentimental aspirations of the other great Colonies outside South Africa, such as Australia and Canada. After all, it must be remembered that these Colonies suffered as much on behalf of South Africa, both in life and treasure, and they feel sure that the open door to South Africa ought to be maintained in their interests. Even if such opportunities were not availed of for settlement in these Colonies, yet there would be established the feeling that the rights and privileges of other Colonists had not been entirely discarded."

He thought that was the general feeling throughout the Empire, and he was certain that feeling was shared in the House. It was a most unfortunate thing that hon. Members had not been permitted, for the purposes of information, to see the Report of the Ridgeway Committee, and the petitions presented to the Committee by the British settlers. In one of those petitions it was stated—

> "If we are to remain on our farms, it is of the greatest necessity that we should be controlled by a sympathetic Government, from whom those of us that are deserving may receive that helpful consideration we have had in the past, and which our circumstances may demand in the future. As we gain experience, and with the help of the latest and necessary implements, we feel confident that under favourable conditions we may be able to raise such crops and develop such agriculture as have hardly been considered possible before. Individually, up to the present, the feeling between the two races has steadily improved, and we feel that one desire of the present Administration in placing us here was to draw together the two races. But it is our belief that to further this end it is necessary for some time to come that we should not be handed over in a condition in which we are wholly dependent on their mercy and charity."

That petition was signed by a number of British settlers in the Orange River Colony. In view of the promised granting of a Constitution to that Colony, he did not think it was at all unreasonable that they should ask for a full statement of the intentions of the Government regarding land settlement. The conditions in the case of the Transvaal were difficult, but the races were more evenly balanced, in fact the British were in a majority, and that fact would be sure to have a steadying influence upon any tendency towards the ill-treatment of the British settlers. The leaders of the Dutch Party had not hitherto been sympathetic towards land settlement, and he hoped that in granting the Constitution to the Orange River Colony more would be done in the direction of land settlement than was done in the Transvaal. They could only produce an even balance in that new Colony by encouraging settlers from Great Britain. If the Land Board was to be of any real service to British settlers, it should have money to spend. He had no faith in the policy of giving the Land Board only a five years life; that was a farce. It was true that it gave security for a period of five years, but unless they felt secure for a longer period than that British settlers would not go out to the Orange River Colony. He was connected with an association which sent out settlers, and their experience was that it was impossible to get people to go to the Orange River Colony because things were so uncertain. They argued that they did not know what was going to happen to them, and if nothing more was going to be done in the way of promoting land settlement than had been done in the Transvaal he could assure the Government they would not get British settlers to go out there. They wanted some assurance and some security that if they got behind with their rent through plague, pestilence, or famine they would be able to struggle through such a difficult crisis. He wished next to refer to a subject which was likely to become one of some difficulty in the near future. He referred to the Newfoundland difficulty. He was sure no one would desire to make Party capital out of such a difficulty as that. The Government had not been entirely fortunate in their dealings with the Colonies. There had been difficulty with Natal, the difficulty with Australia over the New Hebrides; and now there was the difficulty with Newfoundland. He would not go into the merits of the Newfoundland question, but there were some general observations which might be made without entering upon any complicated argument. If there was any Colony in the Empire which had suffered from bad bargains made by past Governments it was Newfoundland. In 1783, so far as two-thirds of its coast was concerned, Newfoundland was by a British Government handed over to France, tied up hopelessly with no opportunity for settlement until the matter was cleared up three or four years ago by a Convention with France. It was intolerable that two thirds of the coast should have been closed to British development, and that France should have continued in possession of that legal right when the moral right had long since vanished. The United States also had a legal right by the Treaty of 1814 and the Convention of 1818, which morally had long since lapsed. If hon. Members would recall the conditions of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty they would realise the force of the argument he was stating. For years this country by virtue of a legal right under that Treaty was able to prevent the United States from carrying out a policy of defence on the coast of the Panama Peninsula. At the time the Treaty was made the United States had no Navy, and under the Treaty there was reserved to the co-operation of Great Britain and the United States certain control of the Peninsula, and the United States could not move without the consent of Great Britain. Years passed, and the United States found that she must have for her national development greater control of the Peninsula, freer passage across it, and power to set up forts and armaments if necessary. There were hon. Members in the House—the hon. Member for Fareham was one—who said that our legal rights existed, but that our moral rights under the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty had long since lapsed. The Foreign Office asked for something and got it, but in the end the right judgment of the people of the country prevailed, and an arrangement was come to by which a cause of serious strife and contention between our Government and that of the United States was removed. We of our own free will gave up our legal right. If under the Treaty of 1814, and the Convention of 1818, the United States had the legal fishing rights in the territorial waters of Newfoundland which she had exercised for a great many years to the detriment of the people of the Colony, then those territorial waters were practically controlled by a foreign Power. What was the attitude of our Government in connection with certain claims made by the United States? In 1886, Newfoundland, suffering as she did from fishing exploitation in her waters, passed the Bait Act preventing Americans from purchasing bait or getting bait in home waters. That Act was put into operation against France as well as against the United States, but counsels of conciliation prevailed, and Newfoundland approached the United States, and proposed that although the fisheries were being injured by the purchase of bait, they would give the United States the right to get bait if they in return would give the right of free entry of Newfoundland fish to the markets of the United States. That was thrown out by the Senate of the United States. Negotiations went on from 1888 till 1905. Newfoundland was always eager to have an understanding with the United States, whereby, if she lost through granting permission to purchase bait in her waters, she would gain by receiving a right of entry for her fish into American markets. When the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was Colonial Secretary, the Bond-Hay Treaty was entered into, but that was also disallowed by the American Senate in the interests of the fishermen on the east coast of the United States. Meanwhile the Newfoundland Government permitted the United States fishermen to get bait in its waters in the hope that the matter would be settled. It was not settled. The United States quite naturally took all she could get and asked for more. In 1905, Newfoundland passed an Act to make it unlawful for foreign vessels to engage native Newfoundlanders on any part of the coast of the island, or to procure bait in any of the waters of Newfoundland. When the Act became law, the Americans persisted in defying it. Then came a protest on the part of the United States against the application of the Bait Act. During all that time our Government was in active negotiation with Newfoundland and the United States trying to find a way out of the difficulty, but that way did not appear. In 1906 Newfoundland, finding that American fishermen evaded the law by going outside the three mile limit to engage Newfoundlanders, passed the Foreign Fishing Vessels Act which provided (1) that it should be unlawful for a resident of the Colony to leave it for the purpose of engaging in foreign fishing vessels intending to fish in the waters of the Colony; and (2) that it should be unlawful for the master, owner, or agent of any foreign fishing vessel to engage British subjects to fish for them within the territorial waters of the Colony. These were simply reprisals, founded upon what Newfoundland believed to be its rights. The British Government agreed to the measure of 1905, but when the Bill of 1906 was brought in grave difficulties arose, and the negotiations became acute and critical. From 8th August, 1906, till 11th October, 1906, a series of despatches passed between Great Britain and Newfoundland on the one hand, and between Great Britain and the United States on the other, and it looked as if they were leading up to a critical situation. The result was that our Government proposed to the United States a *modus vivendi* which gave permission to the Americans to use purse seines during the ensuing season, the use of which instruments of capture the law of Newfoundland had prohibited and penalised, and to ship Newfoundland fishermen outside the three mile limit, which also, by the law of the Colony, was prohibited and penalised. Then came the critical point of the whole business. He had no doubt our Government had good reason for what they did. They granted a *modus vivendi* which overrode the statute law of the Colony of Newfoundland. That would be a very serious matter in any circumstances, but particularly in the case of Newfoundland, because Sir Robert Bond had protested and urged their rights as a Colony under the Imperial Act of 1865 "to remove all doubts as to the validity of Colonial laws" which provided that—

> "All laws or reputed laws enacted or purported to have been enacted by the Legislatures which have received the assent of Her Majesty in Council, or which have received the assent of the Governor of the said Colony in the name of and on behalf of Her Majesty, shall be and be deemed to have been valid and effectual from the date of such assent for all purposes whatever."

That was the principle. The Home Government had a perfect right to annul a Colonial Act. It was in their power by an Act of Parliament to suspend the Act of 1906, because it was this Parliament which gave legislative rights to the Colony, and it could take those rights away. Anyone who had read Sir Robert Bond's speech must have regretted that the Premier of any Colony of the British Empire had been impelled to make it. It was couched in language careful, courteous, but determined, and wound up with two very important statements. Sir Robert Bond said that it might be that there were high public reasons for passing that *modus vivendi* over the heads of the Newfoundland Government, and practically amending an Act passed by the Colonial Legislature, but those reasons had never been shown in the despatches, and had never been presented to the Colonial Government. Neither the Memorandum of the American Minister of the Interior nor anything else had been published to enable the Colonial Government to judge of the facts. Finally, Sir Robert Bond said that the Colonial Government would have been spared a great humiliation, and the pride of the Colonists would have been saved from injury, if the Home Government, instead of coming to a *modus vivendi* with the United States, had asked the Colonial Government to refrain from putting the Act of 1905 into force for another year, and so allowed them another opportunity of presenting their case to the Imperial Government and to the Government of the United States. If the dates were noted it would be found that several days elapsed between the last communication from the Newfoundland Government and when the Home Government cabled that the United States had proposed such and such conditions. Meanwhile, an American ship came into Newfoundland waters, but outside the three-mile limit, and began to recruit Newfoundland fishermen. The next thing the Newfoundland Government received was a cablegram from the Home Government stating that a *modus vivendi* had been entered into with the Government of the United States. He believed that to be a very serious matter indeed. The Newfoundland law had been violated, and no reply had been made by the Home Government to the representations of the Newfoundland Government in regard to the recruiting by the American vessel. The opinion of the Colony was unanimous that a great limitation had been unnecessarily put upon it. The interpretation of treaties was, of course, a thing for experts.

MR. CHURCHILL: That of the hon. Gentleman is wrong.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said the statement he was making was based on that made by Sir Robert Bond in the Legislature of Newfoundland, in which the Premier of the Colony represented that if the Home Government had asked the Colonial Government to refrain from putting the Act of 1906 into operation, it might have been done.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Act of 1906 was passed by the Colonial Legislature with suspensory clauses, and was not to be made valid until it had received the Royal Assent here. The Act never received the Royal Assent here.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said that he knew that the Act of 1905 had received the Royal Assent, because its provisions were in force, and that Act did matter, to prevent American fishermen from recruiting just over the territorial waters of Newfoundland.

MR. CHURCHILL: I never said that it did not matter. What I said was that it was quite a different matter. The hon. Gentleman was referring to the Act of 1906.

SIR GILBERT PARKER asked if it was not the case that when a law was passed by a Colonial Legislature and had received the assent of the representative of the Crown, it might be put into operation at once?

MR. CHURCHILL: But this Act of 1906 was passed with suspensory clauses.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said he was only putting the case as it had been presented by Sir Robert Bond. No one could read the White Paper recently issued without being struck by the statesmanlike position taken up by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in discussing the question with the American Government. Sir Robert Bond said that the Foreign Secretary's despatches had presented the Newfoundland case as fully and fairly as it could be presented to the world at large. But then came a gradual diminution of the claims put forward by the Imperial Government on behalf of Newfoundland—under what pressure the House did not know. It was admissible that there were times when the House should not press for information regarding a critical situation between Great Britain and foreign countries, but he held that the questions he had addressed to the Foreign Secretary that afternoon had fairly interpreted Sir Robert Bond's speech. Now that the Newfoundland Government had taken legal action the matter would be determined according to law. But when the *modus vivendi* had elapsed the difficulty would occur again if the Imperial Government took up the same position as last year. The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies might rest assured that if anything could be done to put Newfoundland in a more honourable position with the United States, it would be appreciated by hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House as by his own supporters. But on the other hand, there was at present in Newfoundland excitement, passion, and a feeling of bitterness which could only be understood when it was remembered that for 120 or 130 years the inhabitants of Newfoundland had been subjected to a kind of cruelty, owing to the terms of a treaty to which no other colony of the British Empire had been subjected; and they had shown, under pressure of a kind which was likely to excite rebellious feeling, a moderation which ought to receive the whole-hearted approval of Parliament and of the British people. He hoped and trusted that the hon. Gentleman would be able to answer in a manner satisfactory to both sides of the House the arguments he had brought forward.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said he wished to draw attention to the constitutional aspect of the Newfoundland question, in order to get from the Under-Secretary for the Colonies an authoritative statement in regard to the *modus vivendi.* For a great many years there had been, he reminded the House, a series of frictions between this country and our oldest Colony, Newfoundland, between that Colony and the United States, and between ourselves and the United States and France. But, luckily, it was possible a few years ago to come to an agreement with the French Government in regard to the lobster fisheries on the Newfoundland shore. It was to be hoped that when the *modus vivendi* came to an end it would be possible for the Government to come to some arrangement with the United States, so that once and for all that difficult subject, which damaged so much one of our most loyal Colonies, might be settled. He would suggest that, if it were possible, the best way would be to renew the Treaty of Washington of 1871, which threw open the whole of the North American waters to American fishermen, and by which the United States admitted Newfoundland fish without duty. What was the history of the question? In 1818 a treaty was signed in London which gave the inhabitants of the United States the right to fish in common with British subjects in certain Newfoundland waters, in certain bays and off certain shores. In 1871 the question was again considered by both sides and settled, upon the whole, satisfactorily. As the result the Treaty of Washington was signed, which allowed Americans to fish in British North American waters, including Newfoundland, in return for free imports of Canadian and Newfoundland fish and fish oil to America. Unfortunately, in 1879 a quarrel broke out among the American and Newfoundland fishermen—he really did not know which were to blame—the treaty was abrogated, and the reprisals had been getting worse from year to year. A duty was put on British fish by America, and in 1886 the Newfoundland Legislature passed the Bait Act in order to put pressure upon the United States by preventing American fishermen from getting bait from the Newfoundland shores. There had been three distinct and separate attempts made by the United States and this country jointly with Newfoundland to get back to the Washington Treaty, and twice, when everything was apparently settled, the United States Senate had thrown out the proposal, as they very often did what the President arranged. The other attempt was defeated owing to a misunderstanding because Canada wanted to get a similar settlement, and therefore no arrangement was made. In the year 1905 the position became acute owing to the Newfoundland legislation, and in August of last year, as they knew, in consequence of the very difficult situation, the Home Government entered into negotiations, and he cordially agreed that they were right in doing so, with the United States for the establishment of a *modus vivendi.* If the Government had not taken that course there might have been conflict between the two sets of fishermen. The Home Government seemed to have kept the Newfoundland Government fairly fully informed as to the progress of the negotiations, but they did not seem to have communicated with the Newfoundland Government that they had notified the United States of a wish to arrange a *modus vivendi.* They should, he thought, have informed the Government of Newfoundland in the first instance, but the first intimation the latter received was a letter to the effect that at the time the letter was written they were in communication with the United States Government on the subject. He thought it would have been more courteous and better policy to have informed the Newfoundland Government previous to the negotiation. No doubt the *modus vivendi* was necessary, but the point he wished to make was whether the action of the Government had been constitutional. By that *modus vivendi* they had set aside the Acts of 1905 and 1906 and had permitted American fishermen to use purse seines, although those Acts said that any Newfoundland fisherman who shipped on board an American fishing boat should be penalised and punished. It was arguable whether the Government had the right to suspend the operation of those two Acts, but he would point out that it was a little inconsistent to do so when at the present moment the Government were prosecuting English fishermen who were in precisely the same position on Norwegian vessels in the Moray Firth. Then as to the use of purse seines by Americans, it was against the wishes of Newfoundland, as it was considered to be most injurious to the fisheries. That it was injurious they had the testimony of the naval officer who was employed on the coast to prove. On 3rd September, 1906 the present Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs wrote to Mr. Whitelaw Reid—

"Your Excellency, In my note of the 14th August I stated that His Majesty's Government hoped shortly to be able to submit to the Government of the United States proposals for a provisional Arrangement which would secure the peaceable and orderly conduct of the forthcoming herring fishery on the coast of Newfoundland. I have now the honour, on the understanding mentioned in my note, viz., that the Arrangement would be in the nature of a *modus vivendi* to be applicable only to the ensuing season, and not in any way to affect the rights and claims of either party to the Convention of 1818, to submit the following proposals, viz.:—(1) His Majesty's Government will not bring into force 'The Newfoundland Foreign Fishing Vessels Act 1906,' which imposes on the United States fishing-vessels certain restrictions in addition to those imposed by the Act of 1905. (2) the provisions of the first part of Section 1 of the Act of 1905 as to boarding and bringing into port, and the whole of Section 3 of the same Act will not be regarded as applying to the United States fishing vessels. (3) the United States Government will in return direct their fishermen to comply with the Colonial Fishery Regulations, as was in fact done last year, with the exception of certain breaches of the prohibition of Sunday fishing. (4) the demand for payment of light dues will be waived by His Majesty's Government. (5) the United States' Government will direct the masters of the United States fishing vessels to comply with the provisions of the Colonial Customs Law as to reporting at a Customs house on arrival in and departure from Colonial waters."

The answer of Mr. Whitelaw Reid was as follows—

"My Government hears with the greatest concern and regret from the opinion of His Majesty's Government there is so wide a divergence of views with regard to the Newfoundland fisheries that an immediate settlement is hopeless. But it is much gratified that His Majesty's Government desire to reach a *modus vivendi* for this season and appreciates the readiness to waive the Foreign Fishing Vessels Act of 1906. This and other restrictive legislation had compelled our fishermen to use *purse seines* or abandon their treaty rights."

Mr. Whitelaw Reid went on to say—

"The small amount of *purse seining* this season could not of course materially affect the common fishery any way. Besides, many of our fishermen have already sailed with *purse seines* as usual and the others are already provided with them. This use of the *purse seine* was not a free choice of our fishermen. They had been driven to it by local restrictive legislation, and the continued use of it at this late date this year seems vital. But we will renounce Sunday fishing for this season if His Majesty's Government will consent to the use of *purse seines* and we cannot too strongly urge an acceptance of this solution."

He thought that His Majesty's Government, in their desire to get the United States to agree to the *modus vivendi*, gave away a great deal more than was necessary, because they not only suspended the Acts of 1905 and 1906 but they also permitted the purse seine. Then as to the constitutional point. By the Act of 1874 (Consolidated Statutes, Title XXVII., Chapter 102, Section 1) purse seines were absolutely prohibited in the territorial waters of Newfoundland, but the Americans were allowed to use those nets in spite of that statute. The question was, did the Act of 1874 apply to Americans? It was obvious that the Government could not set aside the Act of a self-governing Colony such as Newfoundland, especially as the Treaty of Washington said that American subjects had rights "in common" with Newfoundlanders to fish in Newfoundland waters. What was the opinion of Lord Granville, a Liberal Colonial Secretary? The noble Lord said—

"In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the clause in the Treaty of Washington which provided that the citizens of the United States shall be entitled 'in common with British subjects' to fish in Newfoundland waters within the limits of British sovereignty means that the American and British fishermen shall fish in these waters upon terms of equality, and not that there shall be an exemption of American fishermen from any reasonable regulation to which British fishermen are subject."

Mr. Lowell did not deny this interpretation. No doubt the Under-Secretary would bring forward a statement made by Lord Salisbury in the same year, but it was not germane, as the despatch of Lord Granville was written six months subsequent to that of Lord Salisbury. If the Act of 1874 was abrogated we had to fall back on the Treaty of 1818, and he might, he thought, with advantage call attention to a despatch of the present Foreign Secretary dated 2nd February, 1906, in which he took the same views as Lord Granville. He said—

"The views of the United States Government with respect to the position of affairs on the coast of Newfoundland, and to the rights of American fishing vessels in those waters under the Treaty of the 30th October, 1818, as set forth in Mr. Root's note to His Majesty's

Ambassador at Washington the 19th October, 1905, had received the serious attention of His Majesty's Government. I have now the honour to inclose a memorandum dealing seriatim with the propositions formulated by Mr. Root, and with his observations with regard to some of the provisions of recent Newfoundland legislation for the regulation of the fisheries."

In the memorandum the Foreign Secretary said—

> "Mr. Root's note does not give any indication of what laws of the Colony would be regarded by the United States Government as inconsistent with the Convention if applied to American fishermen. The opinion of His Majesty's Government on this point is as follows: The American fishery under Article 1 of the Convention of 1818 is one carried on within the British jurisdiction and 'in common with' British subjects. . . American fishermen cannot therefore rightly claim to exercise their right of fishery under the Convention of 1818 on a footing of greater freedom than if they had never ceased to be British subjects. Nor consistently with terms of the Convention can they claim to exercise it on a footing of greater freedom than the British subjects 'in common with' whom they exercise it under the Convention. In other words the American fishery under the Convention is not a free but a regulated fishery, and, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government American fishermen are bound to comply with all Colonial Laws and Regulations including any touching the conduct of the fishery so long as these are not in their nature unreasonable and are applicable to all fishermen alike."

Therefore the law was held by the right hon. Baronet to apply to American and Newfoundlanders alike. If that was so what should be the course adopted by His Majesty's Government? The Government had three alternatives. They could have gone to the Newfoundland Government, as Lord Salisbury did in 1891, and asked them to suspend the law of 1874 for a short time whilst the *modus vivendi* was in operation, or they could have come to Parliament and got it to pass a law overriding the colonial law of 1874, or they could have adopted a third alternative. As the *modus vivendi* was signed when the House was not sitting, the Government could have made the *modus vivendi*, and could then have come to the House and got an Act of Indemnity passed to regularise their position. He had endeavoured to put forward his views, he was afraid rather imperfectly as he was not a lawyer, but he thought unless it could be proved very clearly that the law of 1874 did not apply to American fishermen, the Government were in the strange position of having set aside a law of a self-governing Colony, which could only be done by an Act of Parliament.

*EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.) said that before the debate passed to other topics he would like to say a few words upon the Newfoundland *modus vivendi*, and to make clear what he thought was the point of view of those who sat upon the front Opposition bench. He would say at once he did not canvass the action of the Government on the merits or demerits of the *modus vivendi.* It might be said and in fact had been said, that that *modus vivendi* was a breach of the principle laid down by Lord Taunton in his despatch of 1857, in which he said that no rights of Newfoundland were to be ceded without her consent. He did not think the Government had laid themselves open to the charge, because in this case there had been no cession, there had only been a temporary waiving of rights. Neither did he think that by the *modus vivendi* the Government had given away, as had been said, the whole case of the Colony and agreed to a surrender rather than a compromise. On the whole he confessed he did not think the bargain was a very bad one. So far as he could see, the only net advantage the United States obtained was that she got the right to use the *purse seine.* And that was only to be used with due regard to other modes of fishery, and he believed it was the fact that the exercise of the right had been renounced by the skippers in the Bay of Islands on the ground that the qualification deprived them of any benefit they might have gained by the concession. On the other hand, they were still precluded from any right to purchase bait in Newfoundland, or to recruit fishermen inside the territorial waters or just outside them, and they also pledged themselves to observe all the local regulations as to reporting at the Customs, the payment of light dues, and the prohibition of fishing on Sundays. He did not think, therefore, that there was a case to be made out for saying that the *modus vivendi* virtually gave away everything so far as Newfoundland was concerned. Even if he thought the bargain was a bad one for Newfoundland, he did not think he would make that a ground for an indictment against the Government, because it was quite clear that where local interests conflicted with

Imperial interests local interests must give way. Of Imperial interests only the Imperial Government could be the judge. All that could be said was that the Imperial Government having this power, should be particularly careful as to how they used it in dealing with a small Colony like Newfoundland which was very jealous of its rights. The point of view he wished to emphasise was not the merits of the *modus vivendi*, but the means by which the settlement was arrived at. It was almost impossible to believe that the Government would really have taken the course they did in September last year unless in their opinion the situation had become very critical. His proposition was that the situation only became critical owing to the supineness and negligence of the Government. Mr. Root's first despatch reached this country in October 1905—the despatch in which he questioned the compatibility of the provisions of the Act of 1905 with the rights of the United States under the Treaty of 1818. That despatch was not answered by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs until February of the following year. There was, it was true, a general election in the interval and he therefore would not make it a ground of complaint against the right hon. Gentleman that he took time before answering the despatch. In his reply the right hon. Gentleman repudiated the contention of Mr. Root that the Act was inconsistent with the Treaty, but suggested that it might be desirable to communicate with our Colony with the view of clearing up any ambiguity as to the manner in which the Act should be interpreted. Apparently the Colonial Office did not even forward the despatch of the Foreign Secretary to the Colony until a fortnight later, and took no steps whatever to act upon his suggestion with regard to a conference on the question, before Mr. Root returned to the charge four months later on the 30th June, 1906. The Government allowed another month to elapse before they forwarded Mr. Root's despatch to the Newfoundland Government, and then they followed it by a telegram two days later saying that the Government had decided to enter into a *modus vivendi* with the United States and asking the Colony to say what form the *modus vivendi* should take. If the Government was open to the charge of culpable negligence in the earlier part of the negotiations, in the later part they were open to the charge of almost incredible tactlessness. That telegram was sent on the 8th of August. The Colony replied on the 19th with a virtual *non possumus.* They made no suggestions, protested against the idea of a *modus vivendi* altogether and declared that the proper course for the Government to take was to put into operation the Act of 1906. He was not prepared to defend the procedure adopted by the Colony. But before the end of the month, on the 31st, the Colonial Secretary received a despatch from the Governor of Newfoundland, who said he had already drawn the attention of his Government to what he thought was an oversight on their part in omitting to make the suggestions for which the Colonial Secretary had asked. That telegram was received here on the 31st, yet the Colonial Secretary, although he had been advised that definite proposals might reach him from the Colony, telegraphed on 3rd September not only that a *modus vivendi* had been agreed upon in principle but that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had already submitted to Mr. Whitelaw Reid the conditions upon which a settlement might be arrived at. At the same time he put a pistol to the head of the Colony by asking whether, if the United States advanced claims for compensation, the Colony were prepared to undertake the liability or whether, if the negotiations fell through, they would undertake to pay all the costs of arbitration. That was an inquiry not only wanting in tact and almost insulting, but one which was wholly unjustifiable having regard to what had taken place before. His right hon. friend the ex-Colonial Secretary had informed the Colonial Government in the previous year that the matters dealt with by the Bill of 1905 lay within their sole competence; and although no doubt His Majesty's Government disapproved of the policy and declared that they could accept no responsibility in the event of retaliation by the United States, yet in view of the fact that they had not advised His Majesty to refuse his assent to the Act they must be held to have virtually guaranteed the compatibility of that Act with the Treaty provisions of 1818. Lord Elgin's telegram asking the Colony whether they were prepared to undertake all the expenses which might be incurred in connection with claims to compensation, or a settlement by arbitration, seemed to him to amount to a virtual repudiation of responsibility for their treaty engagements by His Majesty's Government, and could hardly do otherwise than convey to the Government of Newfoundland the impression - no doubt an erroneous, but a most unfortunate one—that His Majesty's Government were prepared, if necessary, to sacrifice the interests of the Colony rather than incur the unpopularity of making a demand on the British taxpayer at home. The curious thing was that His Majesty's Government had not only taken no pains to make themselves acquainted, as they might easily have done, with the views of the Colony, but when they had obtained those views they seemed almost to have gone out of their way to misunderstand them. One of the most remarkable despatches in the Blue-book was the despatch of Lord Elgin announcing the terms of the *modus vivendi*, in which he informed the Colonial Government that the Imperial Government had offered no concession which the Colonial Government had not declared itself willing to grant. Almost the first thing that the Colony did when it was informed that these matters were under discussion with the Government of the United States was to protest against any arrangement which would involve differentiation between the citizens of the United States and the citizens of the Colony, or the citizens of any other Power. Long before Lord Elgin gave that assurance, the Foreign Secretary had already been in communication with Mr. Whitelaw Reid as to suspending the operation of Sections 1 and 3 of the Act of 1905 in favour of the United States. That suggested rather an interesting point about which he would have been glad to put a question to the Foreign Secretary, had he been present. He did not quite understand how one or two clauses in an Act affecting all foreign vessels could be waived in favour of one Power and not in favour of the rest, without virtually a breach of most-favoured-nation rights. Apart from that point, it was quite obvious that a concession had been made in that respect which was not only not approved of but earnestly deprecated by the Colony. The Colony of Newfoundland had taken up a perfectly clear position. They said, "We will do one of two things. We are quite willing to waive the question of payment of light dues, which we do not particularly care for, if you can induce the United States to assent to all the other local regulations —reporting at the Custom-houses, observance of the prohibition of Sunday fishing, and so on. Or on the other hand we will not insist on these minor conditions provided that the Home Government will assent to our initial request and put in force the Act of 1906." But the Government refused absolutely to put in force the Act of 1906, and gave away the one thing which the Colonies really appeared to care about, at all events as a counter in the negotiations, namely, the right of the United States to use purse seines. All that, no doubt, was matter of past history; and he did not know that very much was to be gained by dwelling at great length upon mistakes which it was impossible now to undo. But he would like to ask the hon. Gentlemen opposite one or two questions with regard to the future. The present position, as he understood it, was that the *modus vivendi* had been protested against by the Colonial Government, and enforced against their will, he did not know how, he supposed by proclamation of the Governor. Very much the same situation arose in 1890 in regard to the controversy which then took place with the French in regard to the lobster fishery. In that case the Government at home insisted on a *modus vivendi* which was unpopular in the Colony, and they forced it upon them against their will. But the Colony on that occasion appealed to Parliament against the decision of the Imperial Government, and year after year there was friction between the Home Government and the Colonial Government in regard to the renewal of the *modus vivendi*, until the whole question was set at rest by the Anglo-French Agreement of 1904. He earnestly trusted that they would not have a repetition of that state of things in the present instance. He was quite at a loss to see how the disastrous prospect could be avoided except by recourse to arbitration. In the earlier despatch from the United States it was said that no great objection would have been raised to the Act of 1905 if Sections 1 and 3 had been strictly interpreted in the light of Section 7. Section 7 said that the powers given under Sections 1 and 3 to the Newfoundland Government were only to be exercised in conformity with treaty rights. But as the whole controversy between the Imperial Government and the Government of the United States was as to what were the rights of the United States under the Treaty of 1818, it was very difficult to see how a settlement could be arrived at otherwise than by arbitration. On the other hand, it was equally obvious that they could not force such an arrangement on the Colony against its will, without a breach of the engagement given in the despatch of Lord Taunton to which he had referred. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would be able to assure them that there was some prospect, at all events, of arriving at an agreement with the Government of Newfoundland on the subject. He would like also to be informed whether His Majesty's Government were contemplating any new machinery for preventing similar friction and misunderstanding between the Colonial Office and the Government of the Colony again. This dispute had been cited in various quarters as an argument for the creation of some machinery, in the shape of an Imperial Council, or something of that kind, which would place His Majesty's Government more completely in touch with the views of the various Colonies. He was not going, on the present occasion, to discuss the desirability or otherwise of creating machinery of that kind; he did not think it was relevant to the particular matter of the Newfoundland dispute. It seemed to him that the whole of the difficulty in that case had been the fault of His Majesty's Government, and that the main cause had been an astounding lack of co-operation—which had happily not occurred under the late Government—between the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office. It was impossible to believe that a statesman so tactful as his right hon. friend the Member for the Berwick Division could have made the proposals he did to the United States, if he had been informed at that time that the Colonial Office had in their pocket a letter from the Governor of Newfoundland holding out hopes of a further communication of the views of the Colony. It might be remarked that exactly the same absence of co-operation was observable in the case of the New Hebrides Convention. Under the late Government the original idea of the Convention to be drawn up between ourselves and the French was one for the settlement of land claims between the two Powers. To that hour the Colonies had never raised any objection to the ultimate settlement which was arrived at on that point; and, before his right hon. friend went out of office, he had taken the greatest care to acquaint the Australian Colonies with the fact that a Commission was about to sit. But when the present Government came into office they decided, owing to the fact that the French Commissioners had refused to consider the question of a temporary Land Court, to extend the inquiry to cover not merely the land claims but the question of jurisdiction over natives—the only one which had excited strong feeling in the Colonies. Yet they never informed Australia or New Zealand that the inquiry had been extended in that way. There was also the greivance that the Foreign Secretary had never taken any steps to bring to the notice of the French Commissioners the objection raised to the system of indentured labour on the part of the Australian Colonies. He did not make that an indictment against the right hon. Gentleman, because it was probable, from a perusal of the Blue-book, that it was not his fault; but he did suggest, in the light of the history of these negotiations, that the Foreign Secretary would be well advised to keep a more strict look-out on his colleagues than he had thought it necessary to do in the past.

*MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury) said that when the attack was made on the Government in connection with the New Hebrides Convention, he took no part in it, because he thought it was not warranted and ought not to have come from the people who made it. They sought to establish an analogy between the New Hebrides Convention and the Chinese Labour Ordinance, but that was not in the least warranted by the facts. In the New Hebrides there was no compound system, with all its inevitable evils and scandals; there was no ostracism of the labourer from civil and social life, no curtailment of liberty outside labour hours, and no forcible expulsion from the country when the term of labour was at an end. The Party opposite ought to be the last people to attack the Government on that matter, seeing that they were the authors of legislation which had led to the gravest moral and political disorders in the Transvaal. They were disorders about which the late Government were warned, and about which they professed the greatest concern, and yet they took no steps to prevent them, and gave no helping hand to those who advocated the taking of such steps. The Opposition stood in regard to that question to-day as they stood three years ago—the champions and supporters of a system of the most vicious and demoralising kind, which was forced upon the Colony against its own will, against the will of the great self-governing Colonies, and against the will of the Mother Country. He did not, therefore, desire to take any part in the very unedifying spectacle of Satan rebuking sin. There were however several provisions in the New Hebrides Convention of which he did not approve, and he especially disliked those relating to the deportation of women and girls. He thought the provisions which dealt with the regulation of the hours of labour and the conditions under which repatriation was to be carried out were carelessly drawn up; in fact they had been so badly drafted as to leave doubt in many minds as to whether the real intentions of the British Government had been carried out. He trusted that the power which had undoubtedly been preserved of revising the Convention by regulations or Amendment would be acted upon so that any apparent deficiencies might be set right as promised by the Foreign Secretary. He regretted the want of sympathy which had been shown towards the urgent remonstrances of the Colonies of Australia and New Zealand, who were anxious that there should be greater protection for the interests of the natives, and he would have liked to have seen the Secretary for the Colonies receive those suggestions from the Colonies in a more sympathetic spirit. They were very important and related to the protection of the natives from opium, from fraudulent and oppressive contracts, and from ill-treatment by their employers. Those were all weighty matters, but he could not find that any of them had been treated as being of sufficient importance to be even submitted to the French Government. No Amendments had been made at all in the Convention, and the net result had been to give occasion to the enemy to blaspheme, and the confidence of the friends of the Government had been shaken. In the Colony of Natal, what was called the native rising there last year was suppressed with admitted severity. It arose out of a scuffle between the police and some natives in the levying of a tax which undoubtedly, at the time, was illegal. Two policemen were killed, and for those two deaths seventeen natives had, at different times, been executed—two in March, twelve in April, and three more in October. Those three had been so badly wounded that they had to be nursed up for their trial, and the people of Natal and the Governor himself had urged the Natal Ministry to exercise clemency. But all in vain. It was much to be regretted that the Secretary of State for the Colonies did not find himself in a position, on behalf of the Mother Country and a Liberal Administration, to urge on the Natal Government not to pursue those natives with such severity. All that appeared in the Blue-book was complimentary telegrams shortly before congratulating the Natal Government on "their self-restraint and moderation in commuting the sentences of courts-martial." With regard to the Transvaal, at the general election two great points were insisted on by the Liberal Party—the gradual abolition of Chinese labour and the full grant of self-government to the two Colonies. He congratulated Lord Elgin on the grant of self-government to the Transvaal; but there was a blot with regard to the Second Chamber, which he thought quite unnecessary, and made more serious by the way in which Lord Selborne had constituted it.

MR. CHURCHILL: We are directly responsible for the constitution of that body.

*MR. MACKARNESS thought his hon. friend would not say that the nominations were not suggested by the High Commissioner. However they were received on all sides in the Transvaal as nominations *pour rire*; and if Lord Selborne's object had been to bring the Second Chamber into ridicule from the start he had achieved it. With regard to the gradual abolition of Chinese labour, he could not conceive why the 16,000 licences granted by the late Government should have been recognised. There was plenty of evidence in Blue-books of the cruelties that went on. There was the flogging which took place under the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): May I ask what business the hon. Gentleman has to say that the flogging took place under me?

*MR. MACKARNESS thought the right hon. Gentleman would understand that he meant during his tenure of office. He had always stated that he thought the right hon. Gentleman was extremely badly treated by Lord Milner, and that the flogging took place behind his back.

*MR. SPEAKER said he failed to see what these matters of past history had to do with the present Bill. The Opposition were not now on their trial, but the Government; and if the hon. Gentleman had any criticisms to make they should be on the Government and the Votes contained in the Bill, and not on events of a past epoch.

*MR. MACKARNESS said he was only drawn into the subject by the intervention of the right hon. Gentleman. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh."] He was criticising the action of Lord Elgin in recognising the licences granted by the late Government. The policy of repatriation at the expense of the State had been carried out by the Secretary of State in such a way as to defeat its object The first proclamation was couched in terms which were calculated to deter Chinese coolies from availing themselves of it; and, in his judgment, the second proclamation was little better. Then there was the evidence of the appalling amount of crime committed by the Chinese against the white inhabitants, and no steps were taken to deal with that state of things. The white people were left to protect themselves by their own rifles against Chinese criminals. It seemed to him that when that state of things was realised and thoroughly proved, it afforded ample ground for the Secretary of State to step in and say that a system which produced such a state of things could no longer be tolerated. There followed the revelations by Mr. Bucknill's inquiry of the state of things in the compounds, but what steps had been taken in regard to that? Several hundreds of coolies had been deported, but the compounds still existed, and they were managed by the same officials under whom those evils grew up. They had also reason to complain of the failure on the part of the Secretary of State to break down the monopoly of recruiting in Portuguese East Africa, the object of which monopoly was to keep up the case for the importation of Chinese coolies, and to prevent the introduction of a larger number of white men to work in the mines. The result was that the High Commissioner was obliged to appeal to the Australian Government to deport to their homes as paupers white colonists who had come to the Transvaal to fight or work for the Empire. That failure seemed to point to want of belief on the part of the Colonial Secretary in his policy or want of ability to carry it out. He could not conceive how, if the Government were at all serious in the matter, it should take all these months to come to a friendly arrangement with a Government like that of Portugal. In regard to the future he would like to feel perfectly sure that the policy of His Majesty's Government as laid down in the Constitution of the Transvaal, namely, that there should be no renewal of any of the Chinese contracts, was certain to be absolutely adhered to. He would not have doubted that for a moment, but for a speech which the Secretary of State had made in another place, in which he appeared to suggest the framing of another ordinance in which there would be no difficulty about the renewals. He hoped the noble Lord was misunderstood, and that the statement did not mean what it appeared to mean. Although he was sure that the Secretary of State had acted from the highest motives, he had lost opportunities of impressing on our Colonial policy a spirit of Liberalism and humanity, and by so doing he had weakened the Government's power for good. Supposing that trouble arose under the New Hebrides Convention, who would be blamed? If a native rising were to take place in another part of the Empire and was put down with great severity, would it not be said that Lord Elgin had approved of those methods in Natal? Would it not be said, with great force, if indentured labour under the conditions of the Transvaal Ordinance was established elsewhere, that for two years under the late Government, and for one year under the present Government, the Chinese Ordinance, with all its abuses, was tolerated? It was not his business to suggest what were the reasons for the policy of the late Government, but in regard to the present Government, whose policy he supported in most things, he did not know what answer there could be, except that during the past year the Colonial Office had been administered by a statesman who, however well meaning, was not imbued with, or had not appreciated, Liberal sentiment on this question, and who had trusted far too much to the High Commissioner, who, although a highly honourable man, was openly and frankly in complete disagreement with Liberals on many points of their policy.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) congratulated the hon. Member on his consistency, and his determination to carry out his election pledges in regard to so-called Chinese slavery. He understood that the hon. Gentleman stood out as the protagonist of Liberalism and humanity, and suggested that neither the Government nor the Opposition had any share in such a policy in this matter. He desired enlightenment in regard to the question of land settlement in South Africa. He himself should rather support the appeal of his hon. friend the Member for Gravesend. They wanted a great deal more enlightenment on that subject. In deciding that a Land Settlement Board was required the Government had admitted that protection was necessary for British settlers at the present time. He wished that they were to have a longer period of protection than five years. He thought that protection would be needed. Watchfulness would also be needed for fully that period. He ventured to think that the Government would not have established that Board had it not been for the debates on the subject in Parliament. He could not say whether or not it was one of the recommendations of the Ridgeway Committee. Personally, he believed it was. He wanted to make one or two inquiries. Had that Board been appointed, and had the Governor yet selected the three Members of it whom he was to appoint? What would be the powers and the duties of the Board? Would the Land Settlement Board for the Orange River Colony be constituted in the same way as that of the Transvaal? Over what land would the Board have control? There was a great deal of land still unappropriated. Would the British settlers in any way benefit by it? Was the Imperial Government going to obtain any control over it? What amount of money had been placed at the disposal of the Board? He understood that there was a balance of £58,000 out of the £3,000,000 intended for the British settlers. Two and a half millions had been spent, and £442,000 out of the remaining £500,000 had been devoted to other purposes. Only £58,000 was left. Was the £442,000 to be replaced for the benefit of British settlers? It was estimated that £22,000 would come in annually from repayments by land settlers in the Orange River Colony, and that a similar yearly sum might be hoped for from the settlers in the Transvaal. The Land Board would have at their disposal the sum of, say, £50,000 a year, but he maintained that that was not sufficient for carrying on its business of encouraging British settlement in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. Then it had to be borne in mind that administration might cost a great deal, and he pressed on the hon. Gentleman the necessity of replacing the sum of £442,000 which had been appropriated to other purposes for advancing more extensive British settlement in the South African Colonies. It could not be denied in any part of the House that the object of British policy should be to encourage British settlers to go out to South Africa, and he wished that the control of the Land Board had been established for more than five years. Assuming, however, that British settlers were placed on the land in the next four or five years, on the existing condition that they repaid the sums advanced to them in annual instalments in thirty years in order to become owners of their land in fee simple, was there any guarantee that after the abolition of the Land Board and a new Government, say a Dutch Government, came into power, those settlers would not be called upon to pay all their instalments in a lump sum? That was a very important point. Was there any guarantee that the Land

Settlement Ordinance under which the advances were made to be repaid in thirty years would not be repealed? He pressed the point the more strongly because in the Orange River Colony under the new Constitution there would be no representatives to put forward the claims of the British settlers there. He understood it was the desire of the Imperial Government to make British and Dutch interests in South Africa as similar as possible, so that the two races could work in co-operation for the good of the Colony. It was the interest of those resident in the two Colonies, whether British or Dutch, that there should be an increase of the farming community so that the cost of living might be decreased. That of itself should lead to better co-operation between the two races. He, however, still thought that the grant of self-government at the present time, both to the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, was a rash experiment; and he had always regretted that His Majesty's Government had shown a constant disposition to do so much for the Boers and so little for the British. He believed that it was largely in consequence of the pressure brought to bear on them by the hon. Member for Newbury and his friends that they had really put a premium upon siding with the Boers. By all means he would like to reciprocate what had been said by General Botha in his speech at Pretoria on 11th March. He did not for a moment question the sincerity of that speech, and he welcomed it; but it must be borne in mind that the policy of a United South Africa which the General advocated was nothing new. It had been put forward before the war by Mr. Hofmeyr, and the idea had been rather that of a Dutch than a British federation. He thought that it would be wise on the part of His Majesty's Government to keep a careful watch over British interests in South Africa.

*Mr. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said he wished to draw attention to a new aspect of an old question — viz., the opium traffic in our Crown Colonies in the East. Hon. Members must not imagine that our connection with the opium trade was limited to India and China. We had very special responsibilities with regard to the opium traffic carried on in our Eastern Crown Colonies. While we were wondering whether China was *bona fide* in her expression of her desire to put an end to this traffic, it would not be surprising if she were wondering whether we were earnest in expressing our desire to assist her to put an end to that traffic so long as we raised a large amount of revenue from opium dens ourselves. While we were nominally opposed to opium traffic, we were fostering opium smoking in our own Crown Colonies. Twice the House of Commons had affirmed last May unanimously that the Indian-Chinese opium traffic was indefensible. They agreed that opium smoking was a curse in China; but was it less so in Hong-Kong? Out of 300,000 inhabitants in Hong-Kong there were only 10,000 Europeans, and it might be regarded as a piece of China under British rule. It was the headquarters of the Chinese opium traffic, and also the headquarters of the opium smuggling trade; so that we had not only a moral but a financial responsibility. Instead of suppressing opium smoking, we farmed out opium-smoking dens as a business. Lord Charles Beresford, in his book, "The Breakup of China," said that the opium farmers were known to be the greatest opium smugglers, and that they could not pay the heavy licence duties demanded of them otherwise. Of the total revenue of the Colony of Hong-Kong in 1905, amounting to $6,918,403, there was received for licences $4,725,906. He had not been able to ascertain the exact proportion derived from opium licences, but he was quite sure that it was considerable. It was well known that the American people had a similar difficulty in the Philippines and appointed a Commission to inquire into it. Among other places they visited was Hong-Kong, and in their Report they stated that—

> "Perhaps one-third of the Chinese in Hong-Kong use opium and the habit seems to be spreading. No effort, except the increased price demanded by the farmer to compensate for the higher price he has to pay to secure his monopoly, is made to deter persons from using opium in this Colony. A good deal of the drug—rather one-third of all used—is smuggled into Hong-Kong. Its use seems to be increasing."

There were also protests on the part of British residents. Last summer a memorial was presented to the Governor of Hong-Kong by the Bishop of Victoria, Archdeacon of Hong-Kong, and all the leading clergy of all denominations against the opium traffic in the Colony. That memorial stated—

> "In our opinion the present system of farming which is in operation in this Colony tends directly to encourage the use of opium and for this encouragement the Government is responsible. The Government is interested in getting as much revenue as possible. The opium farmer must get his money back, and therefore he uses every means in his power to encourage the use of opium. He pushes his business to the utmost extent."

Then the memorial went on to urge the Government to seek means to check and abolish the use of opium and to see that pupils in public schools should be taught the evil and debasing results of the opium habit. The memorial said in conclusion—

> "So long as the Government encourages rather than checks the opium vice, instruction in the schools will be of little use."

What did opium smoking mean? He knew the House did not like details which were painful even if they were graphic, but he might give them one incident related by a missionary, Dr. Park, who writing on 10th December, 1898, said—

> "While I am penning these lines the crying of a wife who has been sold by an opium-smoking husband can be heard on the street in front of our house. He is one of our nearest neighbours, and I have known his wife ever since I came to China, when she was a pretty young girl. When he first began smoking, his mother (who was a widow, and had some property, and was also a teacher of embroidery in our mission), seeing no hope in life, took opium and killed herself. He then sold off the houses one by one, then the furniture in the house, then his wife's clothes, then his grandmother's grave-clothes which she had prepared against her burial. Then he sold his own clothes, and now he has sold his wife. The two children born to him have fortunately died, else he would have sold them next. This is not an isolated case, but can be duplicated in every street, in every city and town of this vast Empire."

Naturally, all the best people among the Chinese detested opium-smoking, whether in or out of China. So strong was the feeling against opium-smoking that the Rev. Arnold Foster told them that in Hong-Kong when there was a competitive examination for a clerkship, five young Chinamen competed, and one of the subjects put before them was that of opium-smoking, and although they all knew that the Colonial Government derived a revenue from opium, and therefore that the course they took was not likely to commend itself to the authorities, they all five denounced the opium vice as the ruin of China. China was beginning to reform in regard to opium-smoking. If that was so, why should Hong-Kong remain a black spot close to the Chinese Empire? There was, however, some hope for Hong-Kong, because with China and Japan joining against opium-smoking probably their influence would spread to our subjects there. Already there was an anti-opium movement commencing among the people in Hong-Kong and they were holding meetings on the subject. But Hong-Kong was not our worst case, and there was some hope through its proximity to China, because if the reform movement went on in China, for very shame we should have to abolish opium-smoking in Hong-Kong, following the example of those non-Christian Powers, Japan and China. But let them go a little further West to the Straits Settlements, which were managed by our Governors under the Colonial Office. Out of a population of 603,460 in the Straits Settlements proper, more than half were Chinese, and there were many Indians. The Government there farmed out the sale of opium in periods of three years at a time to those who kept opium dens, and the revenue from that source was rapidly increasing. For the period 1898–1901 the annual revenue was $2,318,000; for 1901–1904 it was $3,732,000; for 1904–1907 it was $5,580,000. The amount had thus practically doubled in six years, and was nearly half the total annual revenue, which in 1905 was $11,657,000. The excuse for the opium traffic was that it was carried on there in order to oblige the Chinese, but that was only an excuse and not the reason. The real reason was that it was the easiest way of obtaining revenue. It always had been easy to raise revenue by the licensing and taxation of vice. That had always been the case, and he supposed the Prince of Monaco found that that was the easiest way of raising his revenue. Last year Parliament passed a Street Betting Bill, but if instead they had licensed and taxed bookmakers, by licensing the ruin of individuals, they would have tapped a new source of revenue for the State. That was what we were doing at the Straits Settlements, with this difference, that whereas the gambler lost only his money, the opium smoker lost not not only his money but his health, strength, self-respect, and character as well. Everyone agreed that opium smoking was bad, especially for Malays, and in his evidence before the Royal Commission held in 1893, acting Auditor-General O'Brien said—

"I look upon a Straits Malay who takes to opium in any form as a lost man."

Captain Shellebear, ex-officer of engineers and later a missionary, stated—

"Any employee on an opium farm in Singapore smoking opium is at once dismissed."

It was also stated that Malays were not allowed in opium shops as customers. Before the American Commission of 1903 Dr. P. V. Locke, who had lived for fifteen years in Penang and had an extensive practice, when asked if Malays used opium, said they did so very extensively, and he did not actually know that the laws prohibited it. He had never heard that there was a law against opium, and if there was it was so dead a letter as to be of no importance whatever. Before that Commission Dr. F. B. West, who had practised in Singapore for seventeen years, said in December, 1903—

"My own opinion is that the law in operation in Singapore is intended directly to encourage the use of opium. There are two parties interested, the Government and the opium farmer. The Government is interested in getting as much revenue as possible and the opium farmer is interested in getting back his money and therefore pushes the trade. There is not a single inducement offered by anybody discouraging the use of opium."

The doctor went on to tell them that a prohibition against morphia injection came into force on 1st January, 1904, and said it was prohibited, not because it was injurious, but was done at the instigation of opium farmers in order to preserve their income. The American Commission regarding the Straits Settlements said that they—

"Find nothing in the Opium Ordinance of the Straits Settlements commending it as apt to check or prevent the extension of the opium habit. The testimony and figures indicate the opposite effect."

One of their witnesses, who was formerly a managing partner of a Singapore opium farm and was born and educated there, said—

"As a business man I say that the laws give a good opportunity for making money. Speaking from my conscience I am dead against the opium business. I should be glad to see other and better legislation. But if that law calls for tenders I will take advantage of that law. I know in my conscience that the use of opium is bad, but it is a paying business."

Two figures from the Report of the Federated Malay States for 1905 had struck his attention. It showed that in the State of Perak the cotton goods imported for 1905 were of the value of $1,384,000 while the value of the opium imported was $2,719,700. He was not aware that they did any cotton spinning in Perak, and therefore it was obvious that the opium imported was nearly double that of the cotton goods used. Last year saw the beginning of a great reform movement in the East, and last summer and autumn large popular anti-opium meetings were held in China itself, and the movement had spread to the Straits Settlements. In some places as many as 2,000 Chinese assembled to aid in forming an anti-opium association, and he had with him the first number of a magazine published at Penang by that association which was subscribed to by many wealthy Chinese who were very keen in the matter. Voluntary effort was all very well, but if it was fought against by our own Government who at the same time raised a large amount of revenue from a traffic (in the case of the Straits Settlements practically half the revenue) which everybody agreed was demoralising, that was not an encouragement to people to reform, and the House had a great responsibility in the matter. Then again they had the case of Ceylon, where the revenue from opium-smoking was gradually assuming substantial dimensions under our rule. In 1905 the revenue was 31,000 rupees, and last year he believed it was larger still. The habit was still in what he might call the bud state in Ceylon, all the best native opinion was against it, and it could be easily nipped. There was a Colony crying out to be delivered from the curse, and with a little firmness on the part of the Government, the traffic could easily be extirpated. They heard the same thing in Ceylon as they heard everywhere else. All the best native opinion was against the traffic. Last October in the Legislative Council there they had a debate and again last month, and all the native members, all the Ceylonese representatives, were on one side. They were in favour of the extirpation of the traffic on the same lines that the United States were extirpating it in the Philippines and the Japanese in

Formosa. The reason why the people wished for it was no reason at all. There would always be some who would wish for it. Japan did not allow her people to have opium. The penalty for importing, manufacturing, selling, or exposing it for sale was seven years penal servitude, the penalty for those who imported or manufactured pipes and implements for smoking it was five years, whilst that for those who insisted upon eating or smoking it was three years. It was not a new problem. The Japanese knew how to deal with it effectually and that was the reason of their strength. America had followed their example in the Philippines. They had prohibited the use of opium except for medicinal purposes after three years, and in the meantime that only applied to registered users of it over twenty-one years of age. All others were prohibited at once. China also was endeavouring to stamp out the evil in a common sense way. They prohibited the use of opium after ten years, and in the meantime were registering all the persons who had hitherto taken opium and allowed no new ones to be registered. How long were we to remain behind Japan and the United States in this matter? How long should we have to remain behind China itself? Did we care less for our Colonies than Japan for hers? Were we less interested in the welfare, less civilised and less humane in the treatment, of our subjects in our Crown Colonies than Japan in Formosa and the United States in the Philippines? When dining in the House he often discussed with his hon. friends our rights and duties in our Crown Colonies and possessions as the guardians of the subject races, and while sometimes he felt half inclined to agree with his hon. friends that we had no moral right in those places, he rather held that it was our right and duty to be the guardian and teacher of those subject races until they could go on alone But if we did not rise to our responsibilities and were not equal to our duties; if we, instead of doing what we ought to do, merely considered the easiest way of raising money instead of looking upon ourselves as the hand of providence, as he hoped we were, then we should be the worst instead of the best friends of those people. He pressed the Government strongly to condemn the traffic in the same way that the House condemned the opium traffic in India. If they so regarded it in their hearts; if they regarded it with full sense of their responsibility, then he was right in calling on the Government to do the same with regard to our Crown Colonies as the House called upon them to do with regard to China, to put an end to the traffic as soon as possible.

*MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): Before this debate goes further I want to recall the Goverment and the Foreign Office to the question of Newfoundland. I do not usually call attention to the absence of hon. or right hon. Gentlemen opposite, but I do say that, on a question which has excited the interest which this question has in the oldest of our Colonies and which affects the Foreign Office as this does, I think a representative of the Foreign Office should be here to give that explanation which such a delicate matter requires. I wish to bring before the House with what brevity I can the situation in Newfoundland. There has been, as the House knows, a long and troublesome controversy between the United States and the Newfoundlanders with regard to the fishing rights of that community. Broadly speaking, the controversy has arisen over the true construction of the Treaty of 1818. By that Convention the Americans were given rights to fish in the territorial waters of Newfoundland. Perhaps I had better read the exact words of the Treaty—it is extremely short—in order that the House may fully understand the situation. The words are these—

> "The inhabitants of the United States shall have for ever in common with the subjects of His Britannic Majesty the liberty to take fish of every kind in that part of the waters of Newfoundland."

Then a number of boundaries are given. It was the construction of those words which caused the controversy. The Newfoundlanders say that in the exercise of these rights the American fishermen are bound to obey the laws and regulations of Newfoundland so long as they are reasonable, and not framed to the prejudice of the United States as compared with the Newfoundlanders. That is the contention of the Newfoundland Government and always has been. The American lawyers say, "We are not bound by the municipal laws of Newfoundland at all. Those municipal laws cannot alter or in any way modify our rights under the Treaty of 1818. We have a treaty right to fish in these waters, and your municipal laws cannot affect us. We do not wish for a moment that the fisheries should be unregulated, and we say we are perfectly willing to meet the Government of Newfoundland and agree with them to those regulations which will be for the common benefit of the fishery. But we say that those laws and regulations must be made with the consent of the American Government, and not made by the Newfoundland Government alone." Both those views have good sense in them, but they are conflicting. It is impossible to ignore the American case, because the late Lord Salisbury has thrown the ægis of his authority over some portion of it. I have my own firm opinion on the subject, and I do not wish to dogmatise upon it. There is the issue, a growing issue, an issue that is likely to lead to friction and collision unless it is settled. The controversy as managed by the Government came to a head just before the season of the fishing in 1906. They had no chance of a settlement at that time; no chance of a settlement until the fishing season came on with its opportunities of friction and collision between the rival fishermen. The *modus vivendi* last autumn was essential to be made after the manner in which the Government had conducted the matter for the twelve months preceding. They made it impossible for any other arrangement to be come to, because they were so negligent and apathetic in the long months that preceded the season of fishing. I agree with my noble friend that no prejudice ought to arise in the future from the making of that *modus vivendi.* Both parties stood aside and said, "We will not insist on our full rights for this short season, we will treat them as in abeyance." Those are the contentions of both sides. Are they to continue in the future? The Government having allowed this controversy to continue without any consultation with Newfoundland until just before the autumn fishing, they were compelled to enter into this *modus vivendi*; but on the other hand were they justified in the apathetic and negligent manner with which they treated the matter before that time? Let the House think for a moment what the nature of this controversy is, and how painfully important it is to Newfoundland. The American Government challenges the right of Newfoundland to make reasonable regulations herself for her chief and most ancient industry. They challenge her right to make these regulations as against them in her own territorial waters, and they challenge the power of the Newfoundland Government to bind the action of her own subjects within her own jurisdiction. For Newfoundland to yield to these conditions would involve the admission that the Americans rightly claimed that they were exempt from the Colonial laws.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: They are just in the same positions as the French claims. In what way do they differ?

*MR. LYTTELTON: I am not at this time discussing the French claims. I am not saying whether they are right or wrong. I am only saying the nature of these claims are painful to Newfoundland.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: I merely thought that it might save discussion from this side of the House if the right hon. Gentleman could show in what way the American claims differed from the French claims.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I am not really concerned with the French claims. That is not the point I am on. The point to which I am addressing myself is that the controversy is of very painful importance to Newfoundland. It involves a claim by the Americans to use nets which the islanders are prohibited from using in their own waters. That involves a depreciation of maritime enterprise, the extinction of a large source of wealth, and, at any rate, a partition of Newfoundland's sovereignty in her own waters. I do not wish for a moment to say that the construction of the Treaty of 1818, is an easy matter; but I say that, considering the character of these claims, there was a case for careful and scrupulous consideration of the Colony affected, the exercise of a reasonable foresight, and for the most cautious tactics in dealing with the position which it has in the matter. Has the Colony received that consideration? I am sorry that we have no representative of the Foreign Office present to answer the powerful case made by my noble friend. This controversy had been going on for many years, but, when we left office in November, an actual representation had been made to the British Government by the United States upon the matter. That was in October, 1905. A full statement was made to the British Government of the American case, and before we left office I invited the law officers of the Crown to report upon the legal aspects of the question; and the report of the law officers of the Crown must have been in the hands of this Government in 1905. Nothing was done at all—although the whole matter had already been prepared and sifted—either in November, December or January. Then on 2nd February, a full statement was made of the British case, which was transmitted to America. I say nothing about the three months, though it seems rather a long time to take to appreciate the report of the law officers. But I will pass that by. In February at any rate, the issues were joined between the two Governments; they knew the views of both parties. The Government ought then and there to have consulted the Government of the Colony on the matter. It is all very well to have despatches some months afterwards, but we have the months of February, March, April, May, and June elapsing before the Newfoundland Government are consulted upon the matter at all. It would have been easy, considering the care and attention which is paid to the matter in Newfoundland, to have brought over a number of the Newfoundland Government to consider the situation. Many fallacies thrive on the platform which die when they come to be discussed over a table. I think the Government, I say it strongly, ought to have tried during those long months to consult the Newfoundland Government, and have given them such a policy with regard to the fisheries as would be, if possible, acceptable to the American Government, but, if not acceptable to them, acceptable at all events to Newfoundland and Great Britain, which are vitally concerned. What did the Government do? Why, it was not until the 6th August that they communicated with Newfoundland at all. And how did they communicate with them then? Not by asking them to pass their view upon the matter. No; because the main point was actually decided then. Page 18 of this correspondence tells us that Lord Elgin said—

> "The matter is enjoying the earnest attention of His Majesty's Government, and I will communicate with you again as soon as I am in a position to state the decision to which we have come in this matter."

The Foreign Secretary on the 14th August sent a communication to Mr. Whitelaw Reid in which he says that His Majesty's Government had made up their minds in accordance with the suggestion of Mr. Whitelaw Reid's letter, to confer with the United States Government with a view to some arrangement

> "which will secure the orderly conduct of the forthcoming fishing."

Therefore, they had made up their minds to enter upon a *modus vivendi*, and it was only a question of consulting or getting from the Colonial Government some ideas as to the terms on which the *modus vivendi* could be made. How much time had the Government of the Colony in which to submit their views? Why, Lord Elgin telegraphed again on the 8th December, giving a summary of his intention to negotiate this *modus vivendi*, and saying—

> "Telegraph reply immediately."

Do the Government, when they look back upon these things, approve of this course? Do they approve of arriving at a decision, after months of consideration themselves, without any consideration being shown to the Colony or the Newfoundland Government? Do they approve of a decision to which Newfoundland is permptorily asked to telegraph her reply immediately? Is that a thing which is likely to secure contentment on the part of the Government of the Colony? On the 14th August, very properly, the Newfoundland Government wrote their reply, and protested in the most vigorous way against the *modus vivendi*, and against the decision to which His Majesty's Government had come. As my noble friend, earlier in the evening, pointed out, it is a fact that when the Colonial Office had actually in its possession the reasons which had been stated by the Newfoundland Government against the decision, they allowed the Foreign Secretary to communicate with Mr. Whitelaw Reid without the right hon. Gentleman ever having seen what the Colonial Office had received.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields): Will the right hon. Gentleman say why he makes the assertion that the Foreign Secretary had never seen what was received by the Colonial Office?

MR. LYTTELTON: That is the inference I draw from the correspondence.

SIR W. ROBSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman say on what he bases his inference, or what is his suggestion?

*MR. LYTTELTON: My suggestion is that the Foreign Secretary, writing on the 3rd September, made no reference to the reasons which the Newfoundland Government had given, and I have too much respect for his caution in dealing with these matters to imagine that he would ignore such reasons had they been presented to him. If he were here to explain his own conduct in that matter, instead of leaving it to my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor-General to make suggestions which may or may not be correct, I think it would be respectful to the House, especially on the part of those who used to call attention to the absence of the Leader of the Opposition when he was Prime Minister, and even when matters not affecting him were under discussion. That is the position, after that long controversy has gone on, after acute difficulties have arisen, after His Majesty's Government have considered them for many months, and after they have arrived at a decision which conflicts with the policy which the Newfoundland Government had themselves desired to adopt. When I was at the Colonial Office, I deprecated the particular method of enforcing their views employed by the Newfoundland Government before the passing of the Act of 1905. Though I deprecated it as not being the best or wisest way of conducting the controversy, yet it was perfectly clear that in passing the Act of 1905 the Newfoundland Government were within their rights; and it was not in the power of this country, unless it was done by Parliament, to set aside that Act of 1905, which was a particular machine employed by the Newfoundland Government to press for the concession which they desired from the American Government. What was that method? The Newfoundland Government thought that they might exercise pressure upon the American Government, in the first place, by refusing their own citizens the power to sell bait. In the second place, they desired to refuse to their own citizens the right to engage in American vessels for the purpose of assisting them in rival fishing. Can anybody say, can the Under-Secretary or the Solicitor-General say, that these are not matters within the jurisdiction of the Newfoundland Government, and which it was, therefore, competent to them to enforce? The *modus vivendi* which His Majesty's Government have entered into entrenches upon one of these rights, the right of the Newfoundland Government to jurisdiction over its own subjects, and to prevent their being recruited as fishermen by the American Government. I want to know what authority there was for the British Government's controverting the provisions of the Newfoundland Statute of 1905 (not the one of 1906), which had been duly passed by the Newfoundland Government, and which had never been vetoed by His Majesty's Government? The position was this. In a matter on which Newfoundland was never consulted for many months, and upon a point which she considered vital to her interests, a decision was communicated to her which involved the making of a *modus vivendi* which—to say nothing as to whether its terms were advantageous to the American Government or not—contained provisions which were repugnant to the provisions of a Colonial Statute duly passed. Some explanation of this is necessary. I wish to make it again clear that the *modus vivendi*, in my view, is not to be attacked on its merits. So great a horror have I of a conflict between fishermen in these matters which might kindle so great a flame that I think the *modus vivendi*, even if it contained some illegality, was better made when it was made. But I do complain, most seriously, of the Government's having allowed themselves to be placed in a position in which these conflicts were imminent, when, had they exercised ordinary care and diligence, they might have ascertained the views of Newfoundland long before, instead of placing the Colony in a position in which they were compelled by telegraph to reply, and at a time when it was quite impossible for His Majesty's Government to give that weight to their representations which they were undoubtedly entitled to receive. I desire in conclusion to express my hearty agreement with my hon. friend the Member for Gravesend in the opinion that nothing is more likely to engender contentment and promote racial fusion in the Orange River Colony than proceeding with the experiment made by Lord Milner in land settlement. Such social experiments are far more effective for these purposes than political measures. The people who have most bravely endeavoured to acquiesce in the present political arrangement and to abide loyally by it, and from whom such sacrifices have been asked, ought to be well-treated; but unless there is an explanation I do not think that the £500,000 should have been withdrawn from the money actually appropriated in the Orange River Colony and nothing substituted. Neither do I think that the term for which the Board was created is nearly long enough. Five years, I fear, will not see the settlement of the land question in the Orange River Colony. I hope, therefore, that the Under-Secretary will be able to give his assurances that there is sufficient revenue attached to the new Land Board to make it efficient, and that a much longer period than five years will be fixed.

MR. CHURCHILL: I think we have, at any rate, the right at the Colonial Office to congratulate ourselves on being, so far as Parliamentary debate is concerned, an exceedingly fashionable Department. Ever since the beginning of the session every single vehicle of Parliamentary procedure—the debate on the Address, the passage of Supplementary Estimates, the Vote on Account, and the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill—every single vehicle of Parliamentary procedure which enables the House to discuss the subject in which it takes at that particular time the greatest interest has been used for the purpose of raising debates on one or other of the complicated questions which come under the charge of my noble friend Lord Elgin. If the House takes this keen interest in Colonial questions, if it is pleased by their amazing variety, and by the novelty of the circumstances which each in its turn presents to us, I trust that the representative of the Colonial Office in the House of Commons may also ask from hon. Gentlemen, on whatever benches they may sit, a measure of indulgence, equal to the measure of their interest, in his attempt to supply them with the information they may require and to meet the adverse criticisms of which the Colonial Office is the object. My hon. friend the Member for Radcliffe referred to the question of the laws respecting the sale of opium in the British Colonies. No opium is grown in any British Colony; but the presence of a considerable number of Chinese in the Eastern Colonies makes the traffic in opium a serious feature in the politics and economy of these Colonies. We are very carefully watching the movements of China in regard to the repression of the opium habit. That great assertion of a determination on the part of the Empire of China to effect a stupendous moral reform in the conditions of her people carries with it a mandate—an imperious mandate—to all other countries in the world that they shall aid that movement, and, above all, that they shall keep themselves thoroughly abreast of it. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for India has already made statements to this House on the subject; and I can only say that Lord Elgin, in consultation with the India Office, will watch every opportunity that may occur to bring the legislation of our various Colonies and Dependencies more into harmony with what is the overwhelming opinion of this House, and more into harmony with what is, I venture to think, our plain duty as a great civilising Power. The hon. Member for Newbury drew us to South Africa in his speech. He spoke of the rising in Natal and of the renewal of the licences of Chinese coolies. I do not desire to refer to either of those subjects to-night. The first lies wholly in the past; and in regard to the second I would venture to enjoin upon my hon. friend the practice of patience. No doubt it is a virtue more easy to preach than to exercise; and yet I venture to think that by this time next year my hon. friend's anxieties on this question will have been satisfactorily allayed. Further than that I do not desire to go. We have a new Government in power in the Transvaal, and I for one desire to accord to that Government the most respectful treatment which is in the power of a Minister in this House. Therefore I do not think it advantageous at this stage to speculate on what their action will be. [A laugh.] I think that scornful laugh is unworthy of the hon. Gentleman, and unworthy of the patriotism of the Party opposite. After all, a Party may go into Opposition and still preserve some patriotism. This would be especially becoming in the Party which has always endeavoured to turn patriotic impulses to its own Party interests. Still less is it advantageous at this juncture to state what His Majesty's Government would do in circumstances which have not arisen, and which, in my opinion, are unlikely ever to arise. So, Sir, I confine myself, in dealing with South Africa, to the subject of land settlement, which was referred to by the hon. Member for Gravesend, and by the hon. Member for Aston Manor, and which the right hon. Gentleman opposite has just touched upon. The position of the British settlers in the Transvaal and in the Orange River Colony is well known to the House, but there is an air of misconception about some of the statements which have been made upon their behalf. These settlers were given grants of land and had advanced to them sums of money to settle upon the land under the provisions of the various land settlement ordinances. In return for these great benefits—and they were great benefits, amounting to large capital endowments in the first instance — they contracted to pay by instalments the loans which had already been advanced to them, and to pay a rent for the farms and the land which they now hold. It was the object of His Majesty's Government in erecting the machinery of the Land Board to interpose between those settlers and the new Governments which were coming into being in both Colonies, something of a shield or screen which should make sure that those obligations should not be too harshly or too severely exacted, so that if there was a very bad year the demand of the whole amount of the rent or instalments due that year should not end in the man being driven out of his farm. We put that provision in not because we thought that the Boer Government would deal with the settlers in a harsh manner, but because we thought the settlers had a right to some guarantee on our part that they would have that sympathetic administration which they had believed would be an essential condition of their tenure. When the land settlement policy was originally started it was more ambitious than it has now become. It was proposed not merely sympathetically to administer the existing settlers who had already been placed on the land, but it was proposed to bring more land into cultivation, to raise it to an economic level, and to place a steady stream of new settlers upon the land. With those further extended aspects of land settlement proposals His Majesty's Government have not associated themselves in any way. In setting up the Land Board which figures in the Letters Patent to the Transvaal we have carefully excluded from the function of this Board the settlement of new settlers on the land. The Board is endowed with all the existing assets of land settlement. It is placed in possession of all the repayments which the settlers have made on the loans which have been advanced to them. It is also placed in possession of the rents which the settlers may pay, but it is not asked to spend any money upon placing new settlers on the land. It is not asked to bring new lands into cultivation, nor is it asked—and let me draw the attention of the House to this very important point—to pay any portion of the interest on the £2,500,000 of money which constitute at the present time a charge on the revenues of the Transvaal, and which have practically, though not altogether been handed over to the Land Settlement Board, so that the Land Settlement Board is possessed of the assets of the land settlement policy without all its liabilities. And what reason is there for assuming that the funds at the disposal of the Land Settlement Board will not be sufficient to meet the reduced functions required from them? On the face of it they must be more than sufficient. The main function of the Land Settlement Board is a sympathetic administration of the rents and instalments exacted from the existing settlers on the land. The income of the Land Settlement Board is that derived from those very rents and instalments, and in proportion as the Land Settlement Board choose to reduce the income at their disposal in that very proportion they can release the settlers in any year from the obligation of repayment. When that has been conceded it seems to me impossible to suppose that these settlers are not placed in a highly favoured position. They are not merely placed upon the land in the first instance—they have been already there for a period of three years, some of them—but now for a period of five years more they are to be shielded from the discharge of the legal obligations which they have contracted through the operation of a sympathetic Land Board, which in any year can forgive them any portion, or even the whole, of the payments which they are bound in law to make. The right hon. Gentleman seems to expect that we should go further and indulge in some capital expenditure. I do not see why we should go so far as actually to pay these settlers for remaining rent free on the land. That would appear to me to be making them into a favoured class, and invidiously to draw upon them the hostility of other farmers who are living all around them in the country, and who have none of these advantages either in respect of credit or of the easy means by which they have acquired their holdings. It is quite true that the Land Settlement Board has not received the remaining £500,000 allocated to it under the guaranteed loan. The sum of £3,000,000 was set aside for land settlement, and only £2,500,000 have at present been paid over to it. It would be in the power of the Inter-Colonial Council to pay the additional £500,000 if it chose, but the Inter-Colonial Council will almost immediately undergo a great change. The nominated members will disappear, and they will be replaced by elected members of the Transvaal Assembly, and I think it is at least unlikely that the Inter-Colonial Council will pay over the £500,000 in question, and, as I say, I believe the Land Settlement Board have ample money to carry out their work without such a large capital sum as that being entrusted to them.

MR LYTTELTON: The loan of £35,000,000, of which this £3,000,000 was a part, was guaranteed by the British Government. What has occurred to release the Government of the Orange River Colony from the liability to spend the £3,000,000 in the way in which it was allocated?

MR. CHURCHILL: The whole character of the land settlement policy has been altered, and is greatly restricted, and there is no need at the present moment to apply that sum of money in that particular way. It is estimated that the income of the Orange River Colony Land Settlement Board will amount to £27,000 a year if the settlers pay their dues, and the cost of administration of the Board will only amount to £9,000 a year. There is, therefore, a margin of £18,000 within which remissions can be made to the settlers from the very modest obligations which are now required of them. As to the Transvaal, I am not able to give the figures of income and expenditure at the present time, because Lord Selborne has telegraphed that there is some uncertainty as to the exact figure. But I think there is no doubt that the Board will be fully solvent for the limited purpose to which it will now be applied. The Board has already been constituted, but as I am not certain whether the names of the Commissioners which I have here have been published in South Africa, I do not think I ought to state them to the House this evening. I will, however, say that General Botha has informed Lord Selborne that he will give directions to the Department of Agriculture in the Transvaal to assist the Transvaal Land Board in every way, and has shown a disposition to facilitate the transference that is now going on of the rents and all the other assets under the Land Settlement Ordnance to the new Board which is being created.

MR. LYTTELTON: What about the £500,000?

MR. CHURCHILL: The £500,000 is for the time being spent in the extra expense of compensation and repatriation, largely upon the Boers, and although there is every reason to believe that that money will afterwards be repaid by those persons to whom it has been advanced, that repayment has not taken place during the period within which the affairs of the Transvaal were directed by His Majesty's Government, and it will be perfectly impossible for us to dispose of that sum without reference to the opinions of the Transvaal Government.

MR. EVELYN CECIL: May I ask the hon. Gentleman if he will answer my inquiries as to whether there is any guarantee that British settlers will not be called upon at any time after the five years to pay up the whole of their future instalments?

MR. CHURCHILL: The British settlers have their regular contracts and they know the conditions under which they hold them, and they are protected in exactly the same manner as every law-abiding man is protected in South Africa, and I cannot see why it should be assumed that the Government of the Transvaal and of the Orange River Colony will proceed against these people by lawless and unusual methods. Indeed it is very undesirable and impolitic at this juncture to suggest such a thing.

Now I come to the subject which has been principally discussed this evening, the Newfoundland *modus vivendi*. And here let me say that I willingly acknowledge the moderation and the good temper which have characterised the speeches of those who have dealt with this very complicated question. In replying upon it I feel conscious of two difficulties. First, it is a very tangled matter, involving most delicate questions of diplomacy and international law, and also involving highly technical questions connected with the conduct of a herring fishery. And there is this further difficulty. His Majesty's Government have been drawn into a dispute with the Government of Newfoundland, and they are reproached by hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite with the part they had taken in that dispute. But we are also engaged in a diplomatic discussion with the Government of the United States, and there is this risk that in endeavouring to defend His Majesty's Government against the reproaches to which we are subjected on the ground of our relations with Newfoundland, and being successful in that defence, I might be led into making admissions which would not, I think, be of great service to my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary, in those negotiations which he is still conducting and pressing forward with a foreign Power in the interests of the Colony of Newfoundland itself. So I will not attempt any general statement of the whole problem of the Newfoundland Fisheries. I will only try to set before the House as shortly as I can a few of the salient points which have been referred to in this debate. The right hon. Gentleman opposite directly stated the essence of the dispute. The essence of the dispute is whether the local regulations made by the Government of Newfoundland for the conduct of the fishery are binding upon the subjects of the United States who come under treaty rights to use that fishery.

MR. LYTTELTON: Reasonable regulations.

MR. CHURCHILL: Well, reasonable regulations. Reasonable is not a very sure foundation upon which to stand, because obviously there may be two interpretations of what is reasonable where there are two parties to the dispute. The right hon. Gentleman correctly stated the issue, but he did not tell the House how the dispute originated. Under the Convention of 1818 the American fishing vessels had the right to fish in some parts of the Newfoundland waters, and not in other parts. Up to 1905 they had been allowed, as a commercial transaction, not to fish, for that was not their practice, but to purchase fish, not only in those parts of the Newfoundland shores covered by the treaty, but from outside those limits. And so it came to pass that for a great number of years the Convention of 1818 had been in practical abeyance; for the American method of fishing was that the vessels sailed from Gloucester and other ports on the New England coast at the beginning of the season with nucleus crews—that is to say, with only sufficient men to navigate the vessels—and on arrival off the Newfoundland shore they engaged the native fishermen in large numbers to fish for them. The Newfoundlanders understood the working of the gill net, which requires great skill in its use. This arrangement for a great many years was eminently satisfactory to both the Americans and the Newfoundlanders. But in 1905 Sir R. Bond, who was displeased by the non-ratification by the United States Senate of the Hay-Bond Convention, passed a law through the Newfoundland Legislature, prohibiting Newfoundlanders from engaging themselves to Americans within the territorial waters of Newfoundland. That law, when it was passed, caused great consternation among the fishing community in Newfoundland. They were forbidden to work for the Americans, and they were determined that the Americans should not fish if they could not participate. But it was discovered that by going outside the three-mile limit the law could be evaded, and it was by that process that the season of 1905 passed off successfully. In the year 1906 the Government of Newfoundland went further and passed another Act, which, among other things, made it illegal for a Newfoundlander to engage on an American fishing vessel, even outside the three-mile limit; and the Government of Newfoundland may have been under some doubt as to the powers which they possessed in this matter, and how far they were infringing upon international rights, because they specially put in a suspensory clause which made the Act invalid until it had received the assent of His Majesty's Government, His Majesty's Government have reserved their assent to the law. The effect of not allowing the Newfoundland fishermen to engage upon American vessels is very curious. The gill net is the net which the skilled Newfoundlander can handle; but there is another net which does not require such special skill—the purse seine. It is not moored in the narrow inlets; but, when a shoal of herrings is observed on the surface of the water, the purse-seine is towed all round the shoal, and then the whole of the fish in the net are caught, big and little together. There is no doubt that this habit of purse-seining is injurious to the fishery in the long run; but it was particularly painful to the Newfoundland fishermen, because they saw that by this wholesale introduction of the purse seine the Americans had been rendered permanently independent of them, and they would no longer have the advantage of being engaged on remunerative terms on American vessels. As might have been expected, the situation during the autumn of 1906 filled His Majesty's Government with some anxiety. The right hon. Gentleman and the noble Lord have complained of the negligence of Lord Elgin and the Foreign Secretary.

*EARL PERCY; I made no attack on the Foreign Secretary.

MR. CHURCHILL: My right hon. friend will appreciate, I am sure, the favour which exempts him from an attack which, if justified at all, is justified equally against the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office.

*EARL PERCY: I said that it was impossible to believe that the right hon. Gentleman opposite would have made the proposal he did to the American Ambassador if he had been informed by the Colonial Secretary two or three days before that a despatch from the Newfoundland Government might be expected, containing the suggestions of the Newfoundland Ministers, which had already been invited.

MR. CHURCHILL: Before that, the noble Lord dealt with Mr. Root's communication of October, 1905; and he said that the communication reached His Majesty's Government on October 12th, 1905, and that it was not until February that a reply was made. But what Government had this communication reached? During the whole of October, November, and through the early part of December the late Government were in office.

MR. LYTTELTON: The communication was received on October 27th.

MR. CHURCHILL: I make the right hon. Gentleman a present of the fortnight. But still that accounts for six weeks of the time. Then ensued the period of the general election. It is, no doubt, a great disadvantage that general elections should occur to disturb the smooth course of official business; and no doubt right hon. Gentlemen opposite have a right to complain of the interruption.

MR. LYTTELTON: I did not make any point of that interval. But I pointed out that the time from February to the end of June elapsed without any reply being sent.

MR. CHURCHILL: The noble Lord complained of delay in answering Mr. Root's despatch.

*EARL PERCY: I especially said that it was excusable on the ground of the general election.

MR. CHURCHILL: If it were excusable, I am surprised that the noble Lord should have referred to it as "an act of supineness and negligence." The noble Lord says that it was not until February that an answer was made. But what date in February? On February 2. On that date my right hon. friend addressed an answer to the American Government, we having been in office six weeks and a half, and having had to make ourselves masters of most difficult and complicated questions of policy in all quarters of the globe. I do not think, therefore, that the charge of negligence can be sustained. But what follows? My right hon. friend addressed a long reasoned statement to the Government of the United States. The noble Lord applauded that statement and the hon. Member for Gravesend spoke of it with admiration. But what was the next thing the Government had to do, having addressed such a statement to the American Government? They had to wait for an answer. We waited during the summer months of the year for the answer that we had reason to expect would be delivered in time for arrangements to be made before the fishery season began.

*EARL PERCY: The Foreign Secretary said in a despatch that it was desirable to confer with the Colonies, and four months elapsed before the Colonies were consulted.

MR. CHURCHILL: We naturally desired to be in possession of both sides before addressing the Colonies; and we had no means of knowing at what date we should receive the American reply. It reached us in the month of August. We were then close upon the advent of the fishery season, and at that stage a *modus vivendi*, a provisional arrangement of some sort, was absolutely necessary, apart from the merits of the question, if the fishery was to be conducted in a peaceable and orderly manner. On the one side the American fishermen were saying that they would not conform to the local regulations of Newfoundland, and, on the other hand, the Newfoundland fishermen were saying that they would engage themselves to the Americans; there was danger of rioting and disorder and of the fishermen's cutting each other's nets, and of brawling of a dangerous and disastrous character, affecting not only the hard-working men engaged in the industry, but also the good relations between two powerful and friendly countries. In these circumstances we were absolutely justified in making arrangements with the United States of a temporary character. The noble Lord, who is a great authority on this subject, and who speaks with digested knowledge, did not in any degree impeach the provisions of the *modus vivendi*. He thought that it was a good arrangement on the whole, and did not prejudice the permanent interests of Newfoundland. I was very glad to hear him say that. We could not persuade the Americans to abandon the use of purse seines, because those appliances had been to some extent forced on them; and their ships, some of which had already sailed, were now equipped with them. But what we were able to do was to procure that such methods of fishing should not be used to the prejudice of other methods of fishing. Further, the Government of the United States agreed to conform to all the local regulations which the Government of Newfoundland desired to enforce for that year; they entered the customs, paid the light dues, and abstained from fishing on Sunday, which was considered to be a hardship when indulged in by American fishing boats while being forbidden to the fishermen of Newfoundland. All these features were satisfactory in the *modus vivendi*; but when the *modus vivendi* came to be put in practice we gained the additional advantage resulting from the appearance of a naval officer on the scene. When we hear of the necessity of having the British Fleet represented in many seas and in many parts of the world upon grounds of public safety and strategy, I am quite sure that there is an additional argument to be found in the extraordinary tact and skill of His Majesty's naval officers to deal with every situation, however complicated. Captain R. H. Anstruther, of the cruiser "Brilliant," arrived at the Bay of Islands, and induced the leaders of the fishermen and parties belonging to all nationalities to enter into a friendly arrangement, the result being that a successful working agreement was arrived at. The purse seines were not used at all, and the fishery was of considerable profit to all engaged in it. In the report of Sir William MacGregor reference is also made to the friendly relations between the fishermen and the Americans, and to the strong desire shown by the Americans to comply with the provisions of the *modus vivendi* in every particular. The hon. Member for Blackpool spoke of the constitutional aspect of the question, and the right hon. Gentleman asked by what authority this Government entered into a *modus vivendi* with the United States which overrode the provisions of the statutes passed by the Newfoundland Legislature. First of all I will deal with the law. The statute of 1819 was passed by this House carrying out the provisions of the arrangement of 1818. This law empowered the authorities to make regulations for the conduct of the fishery. The law officers of the Crown have recorded their opinion.

MR. LYTTELTON: This Act was repealed.

SIR W. ROBSON: That is an entire mistake.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: A similar provision in the case of France was defended by the law officers of Lord Salisbury, but the House had to pay damages.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is true that Mr. Gladstone's Government had to pay damages, but with the strict reservation that all treaty rights raised in any way by the question at issue stood wholly outside the payment of compensation for the lawless act on the part of our fishermen. The statute of 1819, in the opinion of His Majesty's advisers, gives to the Government power to make regulations for the conduct of the fishery, and that is the legal basis on which we have proceeded. But apart from the legal basis some further justification is needed. We were dealing with a Colony and had to put pressure on it in a matter which affects it intimately and which is to it a matter of great importance. I will not, therefore, base our action merely on the legal procedure. I will go beyond that, and I will say that we have a moral right also which entitles us to be the supreme judge in matters affecting the carrying out of the treaty obligations of this country. Our main right in coming to an understanding of a temporary character with the United States for the peaceful conduct of the fishery was that we are dealing with a subject which is not a Colonial subject, but an Imperial subject; it deals with the interpretation and punctual execution of Imperial treaties. The late Lord Salisbury said that we have given self-government to the Colonies because they suffered if we make a mistake; but we must be ourselves the principal deciding party with regard to Imperial treaties, because it is upon us that the burden, the loss, and the disaster will fall if a wrong decision is taken. The second point is this. If disorder arises in the conduct of the fishery who is to pay? The right hon. Baronet has referred to 1878 when as the result of one day's disorder this country was forced to pay £15,000. The cost of maintaining order at the fishery for a season by means of a cruiser is calculated at £20,000 a year. In these circumstances I submit that not only have we observed strict constitutional and legal propriety, but also that we are sustained by the commonest consideration of the merits of the case, and that we have in making the regulations which we have entered into been justified both on the merits and in law. An hon. Member referred to Lord Elgin in terms which I regretted to hear, because the allegation is that my noble friend has failed to impress on the Government of the British Empire those sentiments of Liberalism and humanity which this Parliament was called into being to set forward. I think that my hon. friend will on reflection see that there is a grave injustice in that charge. No one who has listened to these debates or who has studied the Papers can fail to see the enormous expanse of territory and the perplexity of interests with which the Colonial Office has to deal. There may be parts of the Empire where practices and systems of labour, of taxation, and other political features exist which we in this House disapprove and which we are determined steadily to improve. But I do earnestly submit to the House, after reviewing the whole course of events during the past year, that, considering the many difficulties, we have done a good deal to earn substantial results in South Africa and elsewhere. It is not open to the House to make this complaint, and the speech of my hon. friend, as well as the other criticism, should rather stimulate my noble friend and encourage him in the heavy work that he has undertaken, and which he is carrying out with increasing success.

SIR W. ROBSON said that there were one or two points which had arisen in the debate which concerned the law officers of the Crown. There was also a point involving a personal charge against the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office which needed some special treatment. It had been suggested by the noble Lord, and emphasised by the late Colonial Secretary, that there was gross and incredible tactlessness and neglect at one stage of the negotiations, inasmuch as there had been a failure of communication between the Foreign and Colonial Offices. The charge was that on August 20th, the Government of Newfoundland wrote to the Colonial Office setting forth the case of Newfoundland against the United States, but that there were no suggestions for a *modus vivendi*, that a *modus vivendi* was universally recognised to be desirable, and that the Governor had said that he had drawn the attention of Ministers to the omission. In their anxiety to find some ground for attacking the Government both the noble Lord and the right hon. Gentleman the late Colonial Secretary had overlooked a telegram of August 22nd, which should not have escaped their attention, because it showed that immediately after the Governor of Newfoundland sent off his letter, without waiting for it to be received, he promptly went to his Ministers and received from them a distinct and categorical refusal to enter into anything like a *modus vivendi*. That answered the point, for the telegram showed that on August 22nd both the Foreign Office and Colonial Office knew perfectly well that Newfoundland was not going to assent to any provisional arrangement. The *modus vivendi* was not finally concluded until October 5th, but before that date the Colony had in their possession every proposed term of the arrangement, and they categorically rejected everything. With reference to a point made by his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean in regard to an Act passed in 1819, the case arose in connection with our treaty with France. We made a *modus vivendi* with France with features corresponding to those we had now made with America. But in that case there was no Act. In this case there was an Act. That *modus vivendi* provided that no nation should upon the Newfoundland shore erect lobster factories. A certain gentleman proceeded notwithstanding to erect a lobster factory, and an English admiral proceeded to put it down. The owner brought an action for damages, and it was held that the convention or treaty between the two Governments did not interfere with private rights, that what was required to affect private rights was an Act of Parliament, and if an Act of Parliament had existed it would have made all the difference. It was wrong to say that the Act of 1819 was repealed. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, stated the issue as between Newfoundland and the United States fairly accurately so far as it went, but the statement did not quite cover the whole ground. There was a third party to be considered as to whose rights and duties the right hon. Gentleman said not one single word. That third party was England. England also had rights and powers and duties in relation to the regulation of those fisheries. She had them under the Convention of 1818 and the Act of 1819. If any Act of a local Legislature was inconsistent with the fair exercise of a treaty right, it was not merely our right, but our duty to arrest its operation.

MR. ASHLEY said the Act in question had been in force for thirty-three years.

SIR W. ROBSON said it did not matter how long it had been in force. Any Colonial statute, even if it received the Royal Assent, if it was inconsistent with any Imperial statute or obligation was *ipso facto* void to that extent. The duty of England in this matter was one that ought to be more clearly understood in the country. Scarcely one word in the debate had been devoted to the English aspect of the case. Our duty was to safeguard treaty rights. They were paramount. Whenever a local Legislature carried its powers so far as to interfere with the exercise of treaty rights, our duties, powers, and obligations applied. What had the local Legislature done? It was desirable that the country should understand in order that the justification for our conduct might be understood. In 1905 the local Legislature passed an Act purporting to enable any justice, constable, collector, or other officer to go on board any American vessel, to examine the master on oath, to take such vessel engaged in the lawful exercise of legal rights to the nearest port, and there, if the stipendiary magistrate was of opinion that the vessel had got on board any herring bait that had been purchased in the waters of Newfoundland, a penalty of forfeiture might follow. It might be that the stipendiary magistrate would find that no bait had been purchased, and then the vessel would be allowed to go free. But that would be a great interruption of treaty rights. When the magistrate came to consider the matter, he was further directed by Section 32 to treat as *prima facie* evidence the presence of any herring on board the vessel. American vessels went to these waters to fish for herring or cod, or both. The herring they wanted for bait, or they might also want them for export; but if an American vessel, exercising its treaty rights, was found in Newfoundland waters with herring on board, that fact was to be treated as *prima facie* evidence of its having committed some offence against the local laws of Newfoundland, because presumably they had been buying the bait from Newfoundland fishermen. The Americans regarded that as an interference with treaty rights. It was true that it was said that treaty rights were not affected, but the American replied that if it did not affect their treaty rights what was the object of the legislation? They pointed out in their despatches on the introduction of the Bill by the Newfoundland Legislature that it would make American fishermen dependent on Newfoundland. In those circumstances the greatest danger arose to the peace of the world, because, be it remembered, the Newfoundland Government claimed the right to exercise all these powers through officers who were not necessarily men of discretion or experienced officials. On the other hand the Americans were proclaiming very loudly indeed to the whole world that they were going to fish with purse seines, and there was every prospect of a disturbance arising. In those circumstances was it not necessary and just on the part of His Majesty's Government to seek, at all events, some *modus vivendi*, in order to give them a greater period of repose and leisure in which to try and get some further information? It was absolutely necessary. The Colony maintained a stiff back about the matter; they would consider nothing; and his Majesty's Government in order to maintain the peace were driven to take steps in regard to a matter which was under Imperial, and not local, guardianship. He wondered what hon. Members opposite would have done in the same circumstances. They could not have done otherwise, unless they were prepared for consequences so grave and terrible that one did not like to mention such an hypothesis. His Majesty's Government could not allow the case which the Americans put forward to be condemned as though it was not worthy of consideration. It would be, he was sure, a misfortune if anything was said in that House which tended to embitter relations with either Newfoundland or the United States. The United States Government in their dspatches had preserved the most moderate tone; they had shown the greatest possible willingness and anxiety to reach a reasonable arrangement. They had never denied that the fishery ought to have some regulations, and the question was what those regulations should be. They had surrendered their right to Sunday fishing, but they did not give up their right to use purse seines, which were necessary to them owing to the refusal of the Colony to allow their citizens to embark in American boats. He would not venture to call their action very unreasonable, because if the Colony had allowed their citizens to ship on American vessels, then they would not have used the purse seines. But the Colony insisted, and the Americans had very little alternative except to use purse seines. If the Colony had not taken that course stationary nets would have been more extensively used, but the Americans had practically consented that purse seines should not be used so as to interfere with stationary nets. These were considerations which he hoped the House would bear in mind, and he could assure them that the Government had shown no supineness or neglect. It had been said that nothing was done from the time his right hon. friend had written his despatch, in February, until the end of June. But whose was the delay? The delay was on the part of the United States. They did not answer the despatch from Whitehall until the 30th June, and Mr. Whitelaw Reid communicated it to them on the 20th July. His Majesty's Government could not possibly have done more than they did. They could not communicate to the Government of Newfoundland the American case when they had not received it. They had no reason to anticipate any such delay, and they were compelled to wait until they had got the document. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, had said that he made no charge against the Foreign Office because they had not more quickly answered the despatch of 12th October which reached them on 22nd October. But the ex-Colonial Secretary had not done justice to his own speech, in which he mentioned the despatch of 12th October, and said that nothing was done in that month, or in November, December, and January. The right hon. Gentleman had associated himself with that unfortunate charge, forgetting that he himself was responsible for anything that was done during the months of October, November, December and part of January. Hon. Members opposite thought they were doing very well for their Party when they suddenly resigned and a dissolution followed. Possibly they were thinking about those things, and not of despatches which were left part of October, the whole of November and December, and some days in January. It was after the resignation of the late Government that his right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary took up this extremely complex matter. The despatch which his right hon. friend wrote in February was a masterpiece of comprehension of the whole of a complicated subject, and all he could say was that so far from its being an act of neglect it was an act of extreme vigilance that that despatch of 2nd February should have been written within so limited a time as was left for consideration of the question.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said the hon. and learned Gentleman had stated, if he understood him aright, that a Colonial Act was void if repugnant to a British treaty. What was the hon. and learned Gentleman's authority for that proposition? The Colonial Laws and Liberties Act did not seem to contain any such proposition.

Sir W. ROBSON said the noble Lord had not quoted the exact words of his proposition. He had said "inconsistent." Any Colonial statute which was repugnant to the provisions of an Imperial statute was void to the extent of that repugnance.

Lord R. CECIL: Not a treaty?

Sir W. ROBSON said he was not talking of treaties being void. He was talking of a Colonial Act being void which was repugnant to an Imperial Act.

Lord R. CECIL said what he had understood the hon. and learned Gentleman to say was that the Colonial Act, which was repugnant to the treaty, was void, and that the whole basis of his argument was on that ground, which made it lawful for the *modus vivendi* to set aside the Colonial Act. Otherwise the observations of the Solicitor-General did not appear to be relevant.

Sir W. ROBSON said he had stated that the treaty was confirmed and strengthened by Act of Parliament. This was not an ordinary treaty which was not embodied in an Act. It was embodied in an Act, and therefore it stood on a totally different footing from an ordinary treaty.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) desired to refer to the profoundly unsatisfactory statement of the Under-Secretary in regard to the question of land settlement in South

Africa. When his hon. friend the Member for Aston Manor suggested the necessity of safeguarding the settlers at the end of five years, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies said it was unpatriotic to make such a remark. It had come to a pretty pass if a suggestion for the protection of loyal subjects in South Africa, who had settled on the land, was to be described as unpatriotic. They could not read the speeches of the leaders of the Boers upon this point entirely without apprehension. What was far more serious and not sufficiently understood by the House was that £500,000, part of the £3,000,000 voted for the specific purpose of land settlement was to be devoted to repatriating the Boers, an object for which it was not voted, and according to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies there was no probability of that sum ever going back to its original purpose. That money was intended for a particular purpose, and the Government had no authority for using it for the purpose of repatriating the Boers. They heard a great deal at the time of the election about providing work for British workmen in South Africa. They now knew that all that had been attempted by the Government in that direction was to try and force people to attempt hopeless experiments by employing underground white men who would have been far more suitably employed upon the land. Last year they had a debate in the House on the question of land settlement, and upon that occasion the hon. and learned Member for Reading and others expressed their apprehension of what might happen if the land settlement policy was either discontinued or diminished. Where were those Liberal Imperialists to-day, when for the first time it had been made known that £500,000 out of the £3,000,000 voted for land settlement had been devoted to another purpose? He was certain that the people of the country never intended that money to be used for repatriating the Boers; it was distinctly intended to employ the white population on the land.

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) made no apology for switching off the current of debate from South Africa to other parts of His Majesty's dominions, and to a matter of great importance in Colonial administration. He wished to refer to the disclosures which had recently been made in regard to the exploitation of the pearl fisheries in Ceylon by an ex-Governor, and to two other similar transactions in West Africa and the Pacific islands. He was reluctant to mention names of distinguished officers; but under the circumstances he had no option. In January, 1902, the then Governor of Ceylon, Sir West Ridgeway, introduced a scheme for the purpose of developing to the utmost extent the resources of the pearl fisheries, which up to that time had been inefficiently worked by the Government as a Government monopoly. Two professional gentlemen, Professor Herdman and a marine biologist, Mr. Cornell, were brought to the Colony and continued investigations there, and in the following March or April they made known the result of those investigations. Sir West Ridgeway was aware of the result of those inquiries and the effect they would have upon the development of the pearl fisheries, and although that information was available in March or April nothing whatever was done in the interests of the Colony to use to the best advantage the results which those inquiries had brought to light. Sir West Ridgeway retired from the Colony in November, 1903, and consequently there was a period of eighteen months during which the new methods recommended by the professional investigators might have been put into operation. It should not be forgotten that those investigations were conducted at the expense of the Colony, and he thought it might very well be asked why the results had not been utilised. The sequel to these events probably revealed a possible answer. In November, 1903, the Governor retired, and immediately in 1904 the Gulf Syndicate was formed by Sir West Ridgeway, who entered into negotiations with the late Colonial Secretary for a concession of the pearl fisheries of Ceylon. The terms of the arrangement were at first somewhat vague, but the negotiations were carried on for several months and were absolutely secret and confidential. It was not until October, 1905, that the provisional items of the contract which was then maturing became known even to the officials in the Colony itself. In October, 1905, the arrangement was agreed to, and Sir West

Ridgeway became principal managing director of the company formed to work the pearl fisheries. He might add that no tenders at all were called for, although the opportunity did arrive for the Colonial Secretary's putting the concession out for public tender; and as the event proved, there would have been no lack of offers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must remind the hon. Member that we are not now discussing the acts of the late Government. Possibly the hon. Member is giving an historical survey for the purpose of leading up to the conduct of the present Government, and, if so, I will not interfere at present; but he must not criticise the action of the late Government, for that does not arise on this Bill.

*MR. SMEATON said he would cut the matter short by saying that in December, 1905, on the eve of the general election, the late Colonial Secretary concluded the arrangement which he had provisionally made with Sir West Ridgeway, and an Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council confirming the agreement. The Ordinance was carried at the Second Reading by the official majority, the four independent non-officials opposing it. A public petition was immediately prepared by the public of Ceylon and Colombo protesting against the secret arrangement which had been made, and the substance of the petition was telegraphed to the present Colonial Secretary, Lord Elgin, who was asked to suspend action upon the agreement in the Ordinance. That he refused to do, on the ground that the negotiations had reached an advanced stage and he did not think he was then called upon to intervene. What he (Mr. Smeaton) and many hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House complained of was the failure of the Colonial Secretary to act in a time of emergency when his intervention might have arrested a transaction which was adverse to the interests of the Colony and detrimental to good and honest government. It was also utterly opposed, as all monopolies were, to the principles of free trade. In his opinion the Colonial Secretary ought to have intervened and at the last moment suspended the operation of that arrangement, brought it under review, and, if necessary, advised the King to disallow the Ordinance. No doubt there was difficulty, and he quite appreciated the Colonial Secretary's reluctance to interfere. But, in his opinion, he should have interfered in the interest of the Colony for which he was trustee. He would of course be told that the transaction was not now capable of revocation, and that it was beyond the power of the Government, at the present moment, to do anything to restore those fisheries to the Ceylon Government. That was true, and much to be regretted, because the people of Ceylon considered, and rightly considered, that their interests had been sacrificed. The rent payable by the company was £20,000 based on an average of twenty years profit—but there had been eleven years barren out of those twenty years, whereas now, with the improved methods, there would be no barren years. The average of the last three years was between £80,000 and £90,000; so that the rent of £20,000 was totally inadequate. The company's profits were enormous. The ordinary shares were at a premium of 75 per cent., and the deferred shares were at a premium on the London Stock Exchange of something like 1,350 per cent. That represented the loss to the Colony by this iniquitous transaction, and what he asked was that future proceedings of that sort should not be permitted, because he and those whose opinions he voiced were anxious that the probity and integrity of the Colonial Government should be maintained and no stain of any sort permitted to rest upon them. Two other similar cases had arisen, one in Sierra Leone and another in the Pacific under the High Commissioner of the Fiji Islands. The House would hardly believe that an ex-Governor of Sierra Leone obtained a concession of 4,000 square miles of a remote part of the Protectorate, together with power to compel all the subjects of the various native chiefs to work for him in the cultivation of, among other things, indiarubber. He obtained by that concession a monopoly in the trade of indiarubber. That product had figured disastrously in the history of a part of South Africa of which they had heard, and the very name of the material stunk in the nostrils of those who had tried to protect native races. The other case occurred in an island of the Fiji group.

There an ex-High Commissioner had obtained a gigantic monopoly in guano at practically a nominal rent for ninety-nine years, when the island itself was groaning under taxation, and when the sources of revenue thus alienated might have been used to relieve the natives from the heavy burden of taxation. His object had been attained in calling attention to these discreditable transactions, and he had only to express the hope that for the future the lesson would be learned, so that if attempts by ex-Governors to obtain by official influence concessions in their Colonies occurred again they would be checkmated long before the stage was reached when the Colonial Secretary was precluded from intervening.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) called attention to the question of the prohibition of English vessels fishing in the waters of the Moray Firth. He said that since the Act of 1899 the Moray Firth had been closed to English trawlers and the question had engaged the attention of all connected with the fishing industry. A new situation had been created by the action of the authorities in Scotland. Up to the present foreign trawlers had been allowed the right, denied to English trawlers, of fishing in the Moray Firth. It was a somewhat anomalous position that the right to fish in Scottish waters should be allowed to foreigners and not to Englishmen. He could give an excellent instance. An Aberdeen trawler, in a fog, drifted into the Moray Firth, and when the fog lifted she found herself by the side of a Norwegian boat, the skipper of which ordered her out and said that if she did not go he would give warning to the cruiser. Such treatment of Englishmen and Scotsmen in Scottish waters by a foreigner was not particularly handsome. The action of the Scottish authorities had brought about a situation exactly foreseen by the late Lord Salisbury, who, in 1895, speaking on the Fisheries Regulation Bill, said they must not prohibit trawling by a British vessel in any place where a foreign vessel was able to go. That was a broad principle, and the Government would be wise if they followed it. At present there were a considerable number of Norwegian vessels engaged in the fishing industry trading between the Moray Firth and Grimsby. He knew there were Members who thought those vessels pirates. He believed that in years gone by there had been several Grimsby vessels sailing under false colours, but he believed now everyone engaged in the industry had been properly sold and registered as Norwegian vessels. During the past few weeks the Scottish authorities had been endeavouring to put a stop to the trade, and ten or eleven Norwegian boats had been arrested in the Moray Firth. Their skippers were prosecuted, convicted, and heavily fined. The Norwegian Consul intervened, and the proceedings were quashed and the fines remitted. The Scottish authorities, however, were now proceeding to prosecute subordinates. They were taking proceedings against eleven British subjects who were on board. Those unfortunate men were to be prosecuted at Elgin on Wednesday, and stood liable to a fine of £100 for each offence or to sixty days imprisonment. Such prosecution was most unjust and un-English. The men were engaged, not through the Board of Trade office, but through the Norwegian Consulate. They were placed under command and were not in charge. It was impossible for them to dictate where the vessels were to go and fish. Naturally it was for the skipper to say and for them to obey He knew that the right hon. Gentleman would reply that the men knew they were breaking the law, or if they did not, at any rate, the men who engaged them did; but that was not the fact. The men had no idea that they were breaking the law. The law was only a Scottish by-law, and he did not think anybody had any warning of it until Lord Fitzmaurice in the House of Lords on 21st February said it had been decided to take proceedings against British subjects who could be proved to have acted in contravention of the by-law whilst serving in vessels flying the Norwegian flag. Never before had prosecutions taken place on similar lines. Never before had a subordinate been held responsible for any action of a ship at sea. The only person up to the present who had been held responsible was the skipper. Now, however, under a Scottish by-law, it was proposed to put upon subordinates a new responsibility, not upheld by English law.

The effect would be to prevent Englishmen from taking places upon foreign vessels. Reverting to the discussion on the question of the Newfoundland fisheries, he contrasted the action of the Government in the two cases, and declared that their position was most inconsistent and contradictory. He earnestly appealed to the Secretary for Scotland to see that justice was done to the men, to see that Englishmen received the same treatment as was given to foreigners. The action of the Scottish authorities had brought about a very dangerous position. He knew they had been pressed into their position by many Scottish Members, but their action was not in accord with the views of the English authorities, and he thought it would be a good thing if the Scottish Fisheries Board and the English Board of Fisheries worked in unison. At present their views upon the subject were opposed. He was told last Wednesday, when he asked what arrangements were being made with Norway with regard to the Moray Firth difficulty, that the Foreign Secretary was negotiating with Norway upon the subject. He regretted that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was not present, because he should have liked to address a question to him on the subject. Was the Foreign Office backing up the Scottish authorities in the views they had adopted? Were they going to assist the Scottish authorities in completely closing the Moray Firth to foreign trawlers; because if so a most dangerous situation would be brought about. Before the Foreign Secretary entered into any negotiations with Norway he ought to have consulted with the National Sea Fisheries Protection Association. Many Members on both sides were pressing the Government to extend the three-mile limit to nine, and even to thirteen, miles. He trusted the Government had no idea of doing anything of the sort. If our territorial waters were increased the example would be followed by Germany, Denmark, and Norway, and the result would be that one-fifth of the trawling area would be closed to British trawlers. And that would be done in order to benefit a few line fishermen in the Moray Firth. They were told that the reason for closing the Moray Firth was that that was the breeding ground for fish; but the head of the Marine Biological Department contradicted that statement. The Government must not tamper with one of the largest sea industries of the country. Fish was one of our chief food supplies. If hon. Members were to accompany him to Hull or Grimsby fishing docks one morning when several of the trawlers were discharging their cargoes, the amount of fish landed and then despatched to the Midlands for the poor people would be an eye-opener to them. He had no financial interest in trawlers. His only interest in the question was that he had been connected with the port of Hull since he was a boy, and that he looked upon it from the point of view of the supply of food to the people. During the last eighteen years the amount of fish landed in this country had doubled in value. Some 80 per cent. of the fish landed last year was landed at east-coast ports. In the interests of the poor people of the country this food supply ought to be protected in every way.

MR. A. WILLIAMSON (Elgin and Nairn) said that the last speaker had given as the reasons which induced him to bring this subject before the House of Commons, first, that he would like the Moray Firth to be open to all trawlers in order to increase the food supply of the people; secondly, that the trawlers which they in the north of Scotland contended were poachers were, for the most part, genuine Norwegian trawlers, and that the shares of the companies which owned them were held by Norwegian subjects; and thirdly, he asked the Secretary for Scotland to ensure fair play for British subjects on board those trawlers, who were charged with breaking the laws of this country. As to food supply, it must be known to every hon. Member that there was very great destruction of fish by trawlers, not only in in-shore waters, but also in the open sea. The hon. Member for Holderness had referred to the opinion of the head of the Biological Department. He did not know that gentleman, but he had read the Report of the Scottish Fishery Board issued within the last few months, which stated that the more important areas of the Moray Firth were visited by the trawler belonging to the Board last September, October and November, and the fishing grounds of Aberdeen in March. Some of the hauls which were made showed the enormous destruction of fish in shallow bays. In Dornoch Firth, for six hauls 25,563 were caught, and of these 18,809, or 73½ per cent., were thrown overboard as unmarketable. Of 10,361 haddocks caught, only 394 were large and marketable. Ninety-six per cent. of the catch was returned to the sea. Of course all the young haddocks perished. In in-shore waters a large amount of rubbish and seaweed was brought to the surface with the fish, which crushed the life out of them, and even those that were marketable were not as good for human food as fish caught on the line. Again, the Report of the Fishery Board showed that haddocks under two years of age were present in the shallow bays in the autumn, and that the greater part of those which were caught were thrown overboard, while the percentage of small fish trawled from the deeper ground was less than that from inshore waters. Those who spoke for the line fishermen had no objection to trawling carried on in the open sea; their objection was only to otter trawling in shallow waters like the Moray Firth, where the destruction of the young, immature fish was immense. The closeness with which the trawlers worked was almost incredible. The hon. Member for Holderness had spoken of the thousands of trawlers which left the Humber in the fishing season, in addition to those from other ports. The six so-called foreign trawlers, he believed, could cover the whole of the fishing banks and trawlable area of the Moray Firth in two days. He would also remind the hon. Gentleman that the area for trawling in the open sea was not unlimited. As to the effect of the trawling on the Moray Firth, in the few months before it occurred the line fishing had very much improved, but following the raid which took place by the trawlers at the end of last year and the beginning of this, the catch fell off very much. There seemed to be some evidence, at all events, of the falling off of the catch coinciding with the raid of the trawlers upon the banks. He could justify the exclusion of the trawlers from the Moray Firth on another ground than the destructiveness to the fish there: they were also very destructive to the lines and other apparatus of the line fishers. The Moray Firth had a very limited area, and its shores were inhabited by a limited number of fishermen who got their living by setting lines which were of considerable length and extended for a great distance. If, in that small area, they had trawlers careering up and down, it followed that there must be great destruction of the fishermen's lines. That argument did not so much apply to fishing in the open sea, although there had been complaints of that kind also. Both Parties in the State had been very much concerned in preserving the Moray Firth, not only on the ground of the fishery, but also because they were conducting interesting experiments as to the new fishery. He was glad to say that, so far as the Scottish fishermen were concerned, they had behaved properly, and there had been no cases of the Aberdeen people putting their money in foreign trawlers and registering them in a foreign port, and then using the trawlers in the Moray Firth. If, in the cases which had taken place, the acts which had been committed were the acts of genuine foreign-owned trawlers, the fishermne in the north of Scotland would feel less indignant than they did. But the facts were otherwise, There had been little increase of fishing in the Moray Firth by genuine foreign trawlers, but there had been a seriously increasing number of boats which belonged to our own country. It transpired at the trials at Elgin that the foreigner who was supposed to be the captain of the Norwegian vessel was really very often only a deck hand, while the real captain was an Englishman, and the bulk of the crew was English. It would have been interesting if the hon. Member for the Holderness Division had told them, when the genuine Scottish trawler went into the Moray Firth by accident, and was told to clear out, what language was used.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Certainly; Norwegian.

Mr. WILLIAMSON said it was surprising that the Aberdeen trawler was able to understand Norwegian. He could only tell the hon. Member what occurred at Elgin. A Norwegian subject was tried in the Sheriff Court and found guilty, and condemned to pay a fine of £100 or undergo sixty days imprisonment. The real captain on the boat sent a telegram to his owners in Grimsby, "So-and-So has been fined, what am I to do?" The reply came back to the Lossiemouth Post Office in plain English: "Go on fishing." There was no Norwegian about the telegram.

Mr. STANLEY WILSON said the telegram was sent to the acting agent at Grimsby for the owners in Norway.

Mr. WILLIAMSON said it came to this—that the Grimsby capitalists, or some of them, were in such haste to be rich that they were willing to adopt transparent disguises in order to flout their own country's laws. Their patriotism rejoiced in inviting friendly foreigners to intervene in order that they might be protected from the laws made by their fellow countrymen. The honesty of the Grimsby owners was of such a standard that they considered the stealing of fish to be advisable and right if it could be carried on with impunity by wearing a mask. The food of the people. was thus interfered with, and the livelihood of those who resided upon the banks of the Moray Firth was jeopardised by action which was entirely contrary to the law of the country. By means such as those the people were robbed and the Government were fooled and the position had become intolerable—so intolerable that it was surprising to him that the line fishermen of Scotland had not taken the law into their own hands and committed reprisals. He hoped the Government would persevere with the enforcement of the legislation which they had enacted to prevent this kind of fishing; and as the penalties had been inadequate to stop illegal trawling in the Moray Firth, he trusted that the Government, when they were introducing further legislation on the subject, would increase the penalty beyond £100, which, as hon. Members who were acquainted with the subject knew, could easily be made up within a few hours by a successful haul by the trawler.

*Sir ARTHUR BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs) said that as he represented a constituency which was interested more than any other in Scotland in the present crisis in fishing interests, he desired to direct attention to one or two features in the controversy. His first observation was, that the coast line of Scotland, which without allowing for gulfs and bays, was 1,470 miles in length, could not at present be protected by the cruiser patrols however efficient the vessels engaged in that duty might be. There were now four cruiser patrols, "Minna," "Freya," "Brenda," and "Vigilant"—all capable and efficient ships, whose speed was equal to something like twelve and a half to fourteen knots an hour. He did not take any account of the fifth ship to which reference had been made, because her speed was only nine knots. But such a small fleet were admittedly unequal to the task they had to perform, which was to protect the seaboard of nearly 1,500 miles, or if allowance was made for gulfs and bays, of nearly 2,400 miles. The result was to create a situation which practically invited a trawler to run in on the coast and drop his trawl knowing that he could do so with virtual impunity. It was not an overstatement on his part to say that for every twenty offences committed on the coast of Scotland there was not on the average more than one prosecution. The trawling industry itself, as well as the line fishermen, has suffered much thereby, for on many parts of the coast the immature flat fish have almost been exterminated, and it appears, too, from a trawler Return, that in 1905 they had taken 1,000,000 cwt. less fish than they did the year before; the linesmen have either emigrated or taken to the herring fishing in large numbers. In Ireland the case might almost be described as worse, for there, with a coastline of 1,400 miles, there were but two protecting cruisers, the "Hecla" and "Granuale," neither of which could make twelve knots. Such was the position up to recent events. He was aware that two wrongs did not make a right, but he was glad that recent events had brought the subject forward. He would not weary the House with the well-known facts of the prosecutions, convictions, and pardons of last autumn, but must mention the case of the first conviction to show that there was no surprise in the action of the Executive. He referred to the prosecution of Martin Olsen, of the "Catalonia," a trawler registered at Stavanger, manned by a Grimsby crew, and fishing four miles from shore in the Dornoch Firth. When the conviction was obtained a nominal penalty of £10 was imposed, but never paid, the feeling being that the accused should have the benefit of the ignorance pleaded—"that he had the right to fish when more than three miles from the shore." The widespread publicity which ensued debarred the Grimsby Fleet from any such plea. The recent action of the Government in prosecuting the trawlers, whether more or less than three miles from the shore in the Firth, following on the unanimous decision of the High Court of Justiciary of Scotland that it was territorial waters, was indeed welcome news to the linesmen, but, whatever might be the future action and policy of the Government, the law as it stood was clear and unassailable. That was that the one Scottish bay, by fishing in which the majority of the linesmen gained their livelihood, was declared to belong to Scotland, and that the waters within Duncansbay Head and Rattray Point could not be trawled in by any vessel, British or foreign. Now the Foreign Office had intervened and said there was a conflict between the law of Scotland and international law, and the Government appeared to have satisfied themselves that Foreign Powers had established a right to fish in the Moray Firth because it had a wide mouth, for they had remitted all the fines and released the offenders. As the case stood, fish might be taken by foreign hands out of Scottish waters and sold in English ports, but no Briton might fish there. Surely that was an intolerable position. He believed the action of the Scottish Office was correct, and that even now if the Foreign Office would confer with Belgium a fair solution of the difficulty might be arrived at. The Government was in no way hampered by its intervention in the case of the Iberian Peninsula, for there was no bay involved in that dispute, but only the question of a three or six miles limit. Really the case almost suggested a conundrum, "When is a bay not a bay?" to which the answer was, "When a foreign trawler comes in to fish." The upper Bristol Channel, thirty-seven miles wide, had recently been admitted to be territorial. Norway had successfully claimed the Vestfjord at the Lofodens, fifty miles in width, against every Power in the North Sea Convention. He was, therefore, not without hope that the recent decision of the Scottish Courts would ultimately be upheld on the broadest principles of international law.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said the speech of the hon. Member for Holderness had been so fully answered by the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down that there was very little to add. The hon. Member looked with horror upon the closing up of so large a water as the Moray Firth, and in the first part of his speech, quoted the late Lord Salisbury with regard to the limit of territorial waters. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman had read the whole of the debate from which he quoted, but it was interesting to see what Lord Salisbury said on that occasion. Lord Salisbury said that great care had been taken not to name three miles as the territorial limit. The territorial limit extended as far as a cannon shot would go, and a cannon fired on Jubilee day threw a shot twelve miles. That was very little less than the thirteen miles they now asked for, and with modern developments, a gun of the present day might throw a shot further. With one point made by the hon. Member he cordially agreed. The hon. Gentleman said it was a question of the food supply. The question really at stake was, how best to secure the largest and most lasting supply of fish as food for the people. But did any one seriously contend that that object was to be obtained by throwing the Moray Firth open to trawlers? It was well known that the North Sea had been gradually depleted of fish by trawlers for the last twelve years. Two Committees—in 1893 and in 1900—reported in favour of closing the fishing grounds against trawling, and even the trawlers themselves in 1895 contemplated the shutting up of an area of 5,000 square miles because of the depletion of fish, but nothing was done because they could not agree with each other. In this interest the Moray Firth had been closed, and he hoped the Scottish Office would not be baffled by a few gentlemen from Grimsby, who, disguised as vikings, indulged in a little poaching under the Norwegian flag, and that, while negotiations were ontinued to remove international difficulties, legislation would close the Firth in the interest of the national food supply.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs), as representing the interests of many fishermen, complained of there being only four cruisers to protect local fishermen against the depredations of trawlers disguised as foreigners. Much had been said about reprisals by foreign nations, but there was little to fear on that account, because there were few places where such a policy would be effective. The Norwegian Government had already closed large areas; and if they could close the Western Fiord, a navigable strait fifty miles across, it was strange if we could not close the Moray Firth. Trawlers had all the open sea, but prescribed waters were limited; and to admit trawling in the Moray Firth would destroy the livelihood of honest, hard-working men. If they allowed foreigners to get hold of the trawling industry of Great Britain they would destroy a British industry, deprive the country of a valuable reserve of sea-faring men for the work of the Fleet, and men who in the time of war or blockade could supply the country with one of the most valuable supplies of food.

*MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs) said the present position of affairs in regard to trawlers was intolerable, and to many incomprehensible. It had been suggested by the hon. Member for the Holderness Division that the advice of the National Sea Fisheries Protection Association should be taken. In 1890, that Association passed a resolution asking the Fishery Board of Scotland to—

> "take into consideration the advisability of holding an inquiry with a view to, if necessary, closing the Moray Firth from Kinnaird Head to Duncansbay Head against trawlers."

In the same year delegates from Hull, Grimsby, Yarmouth, and other places, who for themselves and for the companies, corporations, fleets, and associations which they represented, passed an ordinance that they would not trawl in the North Sea, over an area of 5,200 square miles. They also passed a resolution unanimously asking Parliament to prevent trawling on the banks, where so many immature fish were caught. In 1892, again, at the National Fisheries Association meeting two representatives from Aberdeen proposed and seconded the following—

> "That beam trawling should be legal within territorial waters at certain seasons of the year, and that shutting up such a large space of water as the Moray Firth would mean a serious loss to the food supply of the nation, and lead to complications with foreign Powers."

That was not supported, and the conference unanimously carried the following resolution—

> "That in the opinion of this conference all trawling should be illegal in territorial waters. and that further restrictions be imposed for the purpose of protecting spawning beds and breeding grounds."

That was the position taken up, not by the interested line fishermen, but by the trawlers themselves. When they considered the improved methods of trawling, the increased size and number of boats, and the substitution of the otter for the beam trawl they were bound to come to the same conclusion as had been stated by several trawl-owners, that if the Moray Firth was opened to all trawlers it would be cleaned out in four weeks. What attitude had the present and preceding Governments taken up in the question? In the year 1899, Lord Salisbury, receiving a deputation of Scottish local authorities, expressed to them the view that international difficulties might arise. In July, 1905, the Fiscal of Dornock appealed against a decision of the sheriff refusing to convict the master of a foreign trawler found trawling in the Moray Firth, outside the three miles limit. In December, 1905, the then Secretary for Scotland (Lord Linlithgow) stated that he had been advised that the result of that judgment would be to give more effective control over trawling in waters prohibited by by-law than had hitherto been exercised, and that instructions had been given to institute proceedings against trawlers operating in the Moray Firth. In August, 1906, the High Court of twelve Judges unanimously convicted the master of a foreign trawler found trawling well outside the three-miles limit. In November, 1906, in answer to a Question in the House as to whether the Secretary for Scotland had yet consulted the Law Officers of the Crown as to steps against foreign trawlers, in view of the decision of the Court of Session, the Secretary for Scotland stated that the matter was under the consideration of the Government. On 23rd November in answer to a printed Question the Secretary for Scotland stated that instructions had been given to the cruisers to report foreign trawlers working in the Moray Firth with a view to their prosecution. In January, 1907, a number of prosecutions took place, and convictions followed. Shortly afterwards there was the fiasco of the liberation of those convicted. Both the late and the present Governments were committed in the matter. The Unionist Government had taken the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown. The Liberal Government after deliberate consideration had resolved to insist on the right of this country to prohibit illegal trawling in the Moray Firth. Both Governments asserted the right to deal with the Moray Firth as territorial waters. The position of difficulties could not have been unforeseen. It could not be supposed that such possible difficulties were not in view of both Governments when after long and careful consideration they resolved to proceed with prosecutions. It was said that if this policy of closing the Moray Firth were strictly adhered to reprisals must take place. Why so? In May, 1901, at Christiania, where there were delegates from eight Governments, including the Government of Norway, which was represented by Dr. Nansen, this resolution was passed—

> "In distinct areas of the sea, as for example the Moray Firth, in which any Government has undertaken scientific experiments in the interests of the fisheries, and in which the success of the experiments is being hindered by the operations of trawlers, it is to be desired that measures be adopted for the removal of such hindrances."

Norway asserted an exclusive right to fishing off her coast, which included the most valuable cod fishings in Europe, employing about 20,000 men. These fishings were far outside the three miles limit. Norway also claimed exclusive right of fishing in a fiord which was really a navigable strait 100 miles long and 50 miles wide at the mouth. Surely, if the Norwegian Government maintained their protest, the British Government had a right to invite their attention to their claim to these exclusive rights which he had pointed out. What was the decision of the Court of Session? Lord Kyllachy said—

> "The primary enactment, it will be observed, is directed not against persons or classes of persons. It is directed against certain things—the commission of certain acts—within a precisely defined area. It contains no elastic expressions—no indefinite terms."

In other words, what was prohibited was not individuals, but the ruinous method of fishing known as trawling. It was only two years ago that the National Fisheries Association met in Aberdeen. One of the speakers stated that many of the Grimsby trawlers were sailing under a foreign flag, and that the pecuniary interest of Norwegians in those vessels amounted to £5 or £10 only. Something of a scandal had been created in Aberdeen over two years ago when the late secretary of the English Board of Fisheries and Agriculture went on to the trawling platform on two occasions, although it was blatantly announced that the trawling interest intended to violate the laws of the country. A noble Lord had suggested in another place, the other day, that Aberdeen had also her trawlers sailing under a foreign flag. A good many harsh things had been said about Aberdeen. The Aberdeen trawlowners, although many of them were delightful socially, were Conservatives of the deepest dye. If their candidates used the word "liberal" even with a small "l" in their election addresses, he believed that new candidates would be selected. It gave him pleasure as a political opponent to say that keen as Aberdeen men were to make money, they declined to follow the evil example of the Grimsby trawlowners. These latter afforded an exaggerated example of men with the mudrakes. Discarding the ties both of humanity as well as of patriotism, they engaged Norwegians as skippers, who, it was said, had to perform the duties of cooks when at sea, and to take the risk, as a regular condition of employment, of going to prison when convicted of illegal trawling. Some of the gentlemen opposite interested in the trawling industry insisted on the two-Power standard for the Navy. He supposed that the tramp trawlers, these Grimsby foreigners, would add materially to the fighting strength of a foreign navy. It was often said that line fishing was behind the age, and that the controversy was but another illustration of the stage coach being supplanted by the steam engine. That was far from being the case. Within the last three or four years over £300,000 had been spent in one district in the North-east of Scotland on steam drifters. One hundred of these vessels were being built this year in Scotland, and that number would have been exceeded had builders been able to execute more orders. He advocated anti-trawling by law on the ground that trawling would deplete the fishing banks. Even if it did not, he still said that the hardy fishermen in the Moray Firth, who formed so great a part of the Naval Reserve, should receive the greatest consideration and not be crushed out by the Grimsby capitalists. He appealed to the Secretary for Scotland to use his influence with the Government, that foreign trawlers as well as British should be excluded from the Moray Firth.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherland) said he was very glad that they had had an opportunity to discuss this matter, because it was a very serious question for a large part of Scotland, and especially for his own constituency. The hon. Member for Holderness had referred to the prosecution of fishermen at Elgin, but the House had nothing to do with that, and as the trial had not yet taken place he thought it was very unwise and very unusual to discuss it in Parliament. He thought the hon. Member might trust the Scottish Judges to do what was right, and plenty of money would be found in Hull and Grimsby to provide the necessary lawyers. The hon. Member who had introduced the subject seemed to make it a question of where he had spent his boyhood at Hull. He had said very little about Norway, but he had endeavoured to protect the Grimsby and Hull people against the Scottish by-laws. It was really a question of law and order, and the protection of the poor against the rich trusts and companies of Hull, Grimsby, and other places. All he (Mr. Morton) was asking for was that the law should be obeyed by the rich as well as the poor. His own opinion was that the Moray Firth was territorial water, and could not be properly considered to be the open sea at all. That was, however, a matter which they might very well leave to the Foreign Office and the Law Officers of the Crown to settle in a friendly way with the Governments concerned. He was not at all alarmed about the talk of reprisals; that was the usual red herring which was drawn across their path to frighten them from doing what was right. This was not merely a question of the Moray Firth, but of trawling all round the coast of Scotland. The whole of the north and west coast of Sutherlandshire was affected, and the fishing industry was being damaged by the trawlers who illegally trawled within the three miles limit. If the practice was not put a stop to the livelihood of the Scottish line fishermen would be destroyed. He had a right to appeal to Parliament as well as to the Government to protect the poor line fishermen. He did not ask that they should be treated any better than other people; all he asked was that they should have the full benefit and protection of the law. If they did not wish to see these Scottish fishing villages and districts depopulated altogether they must protect the line fishermen. That was not the time to discuss whether trawl fishing was a good thing or not. He was inclined to think that in the end trawling would destroy and ruin the fishing industry altogether, and that they would be better without it and to trust to the line fishermen. They had been told that fish was largely the food of the people, but fish was no cheaper now than it was before they had these trawlers, and fish was no more the food of the people than it was ten or twenty years ago. Merely to take a trawler out to sea and scoop up everything, including gravel and rock, did not make fish any cheaper. He hoped the representative of the Government would be able to tell the House that he meant to have the law upheld. The hon. Member who had introduced the question had sneered at the Scottish by-laws. Why did he not inform the House that they were not merely Scottish by-laws but the law of the land? Last week the Lord Chancellor distinctly stated that the Scottish Judges were right in insisting that the law should be upheld, and that that was the law with regard to the closing of the Moray Firth. If there was an international question to be settled it could be settled by the Government, and he trusted that it would be settled in a friendly way. They had to remember that the so-called foreign trawlers belonged to people at Grimsby or Hull or some other English port. It was admitted that Norwegians had been put upon Grimsby trawlers. It might only be a cook, who had nothing whatever to do with the trawler. What he complained of was that the Norwegian nationality and the Norwegian flag should be used in that way in order that Grimsby or Hull people might break the British law. The Norwegian Government had repudiated the people on these trawlers, and they had been told that they must not reckon upon getting any assistance from that Government. So that these pirates as they had been called had been repudiated by the Norwegian Government. It was admitted that the trawlers were acting illegally, and he appealed to the Government to protect the line fishermen. He thought the Fishery Board cruisers as at present provided had not sufficient speed. They could only steam at the most 12¾ knots, and as the Grimsby trawlers could go much faster than the Government cruisers, they had no difficulty in getting away. He hoped the fishermen in the north of Scotland would get the assistance from the Government which was now asked in order that their industry might be protected from the depredations of trawlers, and that the Highland counties might not be depopulated by the injury which was done in the way described.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said he would like hon. Members who sympathised with the trawling industry to endeavour to realise the mischief which was done to the fishing industry in the north of Scotland. He was satisfied that if they realised the terror and dismay caused in fishing villages, not only along the Moray Firth, but on the other coasts, they would pay greater heed to the complaint now made. After one or two trawlers had come and cleared a bay of fish, weeks had to pass before the poor fishermen were able to earn a shilling to maintain themselves and their families. He was sure if hon. Members connected with trawling companies realised the facts they would give instructions to the captains of their vessels that the three miles limit should not be evaded. They did not do that, or if they did they "winked the other eye." The trawlers caused the Scottish Fisheries Board infinite trouble and expense. For years the Government had been asked by Scottish Members to pass legislation to bring the owners of the trawlers and the managers of the companies to book. After infinite trouble they had succeeded in getting a number of prosecutions. The captain was fined £100, but he did not pay it. He went to jail, but that was no penalty on the company who owned the trawler. Their capital was not touched. Occasionally the nets were forfeited, and sometimes they were bought back for a mere song, because there was nobody else to buy them. The nets ought to be destroyed, and the companies who sent out their men to poach should be in some way penalised. Fishermen had a hard lot, and Parliament should do everything in its power to prevent the law being broken by the companies who owned the trawlers. A question had been asked in regard to certain rewards which had been given to some people in Scotland for obtaining convictions against persons engaged in illegal practices on in-shore waters. He had yet to learn that there was anything immoral in that. In some places, he was glad to say, convictions had been obtained, and his hon. friend the Member for Wick Burghs had been instrumental in that direction. It gave the fishermen a little encouragement to say where they had seen foreign trawlers within the three miles limit. This was not a Party question, and the sympathy and assurances he had had from the Members of the Opposition in the House and in the country, justified the Scottish Members in asking the Government for much more stringent administration of the law than obtained at the present moment. The position was so acute that in some parts vigilance associations had been established which offered rewards to fishermen who could secure convictions against the poaching trawlers. Only the other day he received a letter from a gentleman, not on his own side of politics, enclosing a cheque for three guineas as an expression of his sympathy with the work of the vigilance associations. The gentleman went on to describe how in a small bay in the island of Hoy, which was a happy hunting ground for the poachers, the lines of the local fishermen had been destroyed, and when the fishermen tried to get the numbers of the poachers, those on board the poachers turned boiling steam upon them. The marks by which trawlers might be identified were being continually obliterated, or sails were hung over the ship's side to conceal the number. It was an economic as well as an industrial question. If the depredations of these trawlers were allowed to continue, in many places the sea would be so depleted of fish that it would not be worth anybody's while to go there. Hundreds of tons of fish trawled were destroyed, or sold for manure. He hoped that the Government would realise its duty and do something to protect our fishermen in a better manner than they had been protected for many years past.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): My hon. friend the Member for Orkney and Shetland is unwearied in his efforts to protect the interests of his constituents and of fishermen in other parts of the country. He raised the question as to whether or not the protection afforded to fishermen by the sea police was adequate. As the House well knows, the duties which are performed by the fishery cruisers are exceedingly difficult and onerous, but nobody who has watched them at their work could fail to recognise that the sea police carry out these duties most admirably, and I was glad to hear the warm recognition by the hon. Member for St. Andrews Burghs as to the effectiveness of the work done on some portions of our coast. It has been urged that the sea police are not adequate for the duties they have to perform. We would very gladly have increased that force before now, if the funds at our disposal had not been so limited. The Fishery Board has not yet a sufficient accumulation of funds to furnish another cruiser. When funds are available it is hoped that the Fishery Board may be able to buy another cruiser, and so strengthen the existing fleet for sea-policing purposes. The discussion opened by the hon. Member for the Holderness division has been very useful. Much criticism has been made by hon. Members on both sides of the House on the remarks made by the hon. Gentleman, and there is, therefore, little that it is necessary for me to say on this occasion. There is no doubt whatever about the law; and let me say it is not Scots law, but British law—a law passed here by the British Parliament in 1889, and since maintained by successive Governments. All we have to do at the present moment is to maintain the existing law; and that is all we have done hitherto. Whenever international issues have been raised we have given way. I can hold out no hope whatever to the hon. Member for the Holderness Division that we shall relax our efforts. We will exercise our present powers. The hon. Gentleman referred to a case which he described as coming on for trial on Wednesday next. It would not be proper for me to make any observation in regard to any of the circumstances connected with that case; but what I put to the hon. Gentleman opposite is: Here is a British law which is obligatory on British subjects. Surely no one will maintain in this House that if British subjects break a British law they should go unpunished. It is the duty of the subject to obey the law of his country. [AN HON. MEMBER: "But he does not know it."] I am not able to say whether in this or that case, one or another individual does not know where he is going and whether he is responsible to the law if he takes service on a certain ship; but it is very hard to believe that a man who ships in a trawler at Grimsby does not know the risks he runs if he goes to the Moray Firth. For many years there have been no trawlers in the Moray Firth except these pseudo Norwegian-Grimsby trawlers. The House knows the policy the Government intends to pursue. We intend to maintain the law. We are in communication with Norway as to whether some friendly arrangement cannot be come to on this point, and we have under consideration proposals which we will submit to the House, to extend to England the law now applicable to Scotland with a view to making it illegal to land in England fish taken by trawlers from the Moray Firth.

MR. STANLEY WILSON inquired whether the Government intended to interfere with the three miles limit as it existed at the present.

MR. SINCLAIR: In my opinion the three miles limit has nothing to do with the question.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) called attention to the reduction for the Garrison Artillery at the Mediterranean stations and especially at Malta. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War had stated that the War Office had been acting in conjunction with the Admiralty in regard to that matter, and that the proposal had been approved by one of the most highly skilled military and naval Committees which had sat for some time. He did not wish to say anything against that description except that the members of the Committee would be surprised at the enormously important position given to them by the right hon. Gentleman. He thought it was a flight of rhetoric to describe the Committee in that way. The description of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to Malta was, he thought, entirely misleading, because it would lead any impartial man to the conclusion that the great changes which he had indicated had been actually carried out. The Secretary for War, moreover, in answer to the hon. Member for Chorley, had stated that he could not say whether the military authorities at Malta had expressed approval of the reduction of the garrison, but the highest naval and military talent of the Empire had been employed, and to ask the opinion of a military officer in such a remote place would be like putting a problem in higher mathematics to an elementary schoolmaster. Who were these officers? One was Sir Mansfield Clarke, formerly Quartermaster-General at the War Office, and the other officer principally concerned was Major-General Henry Barrow, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, one of the officers of the British Army with the longest experience of coast defence, and who was eminently qualified to give an opinion. The Minister for War had the reputation of being tactful and courteous in his dealing with officers of all ranks, but that reputation would probably suffer in the eyes of the Army on account of the insult which the right hon. Gentleman had put upon two distinguished officers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) thought the speech of the hon. and gallant Member must have been heard with surprise by his leader. The Owen Committee, which he himself had described as one of the ablest Committees appointed for a long time, was constituted under the direction of the Defence Committee, not in his time, but in the days when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London was Prime Minister. It was constituted for the consideration of a problem that was as much naval as military. Its Reports were not to be carried out until approved by the Defence Committee. In those circumstances he had ventured to say in the House that the joint approval of the Owen Committee and of the Defence Committee was almost the highest authority that could be found for any action. He repudiated in the strongest terms the idea that it was desirable that the military and naval authorities should be controlled by local advice. He had the greatest respect for the distinguished officers referred to by the hon. and gallant Member; but the joint naval and military problem at stake was too important for its decision to be controlled by local advice. In such a matter the authorities should be guided solely by the highest naval and military experts. He was sure the hon. and gallant Gentleman would appeal in vain to his leader for any countenance of the extraordinary doctrine he had lain down. Moreover, the hon. and gallant Gentleman did not seem to be aware that the Owen Committee had conducted its proceedings on the spot. The Committee proceeded to these places, examined them, and then reported. The present Government had been guided by the opinion of the Committee, and if any other course had been adopted it would have led to a deplorable state of things.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I did not object to these officers not having been consulted. My objection was to the extraordinary expression the right hon. Gentleman used when he said their opinion would be worth no more than that of an elementary schoolmaster.

MR. HALDANE said he had the deepest respect for Sir Mansfield Clarke and for General Barrow; but on the question of defence—a question of the very highest importance—the people to be consulted were not the gentlemen on the spot, however eminent, but those who had been chosen as representing the very highest naval and military talent. The right people to consult were the Defence Committee, the General Staff, and the highest military and naval opinion. If the Government had strayed away from that principle they might have gone back to the old method of taking the advice of Service Members in the House of Commons—a method which, he trusted, they had quitted for ever. The principles the Government had adopted were principles laid down in the time of the last Government. He was perfectly certain that our system of defence was far more efficient than ever it had been in the past.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said he would not have intervened if the right hon. Gentleman had not pointedly referred to him in the course of his remarks. He could not help thinking that the right hon. Gentleman had quite misconceived the point of his hon. friend. His hon. and gallant friend was in hearty agreement with most of the views the right hon. Gentleman had expressed, but he objected to the unfortunate metaphor used a few nights ago, which reflected rather unfairly upon the character of two distinguished and gallant officers. The objection was not that the right hon. Gentleman did not consult those gallant officers, but that he did insult them.

MR. MACLEAN (Bath) said he desired to call attention to the Land Registry, and to the most unsatisfactory character of its operations. It occupied a building which had cost £265,000, and it had a staff of 240 officials whose remuneration amounted to nearly £50,000 a year. Several changes had been made in the operation of the system, and experience of it had been sufficiently long to justify a test on the part of the Government as to whether it was simple, secure, swift and economical. The Registration Act was passed in 1875, and nine years ago a further Act was passed to make compulsory the former enactment, which Lord Cairns had abandoned as unworkable. There were no less than seventy-two forms and 371 rules, administered by about 200 officials. Each year the whole system became more and more complicated. There were four kinds of title—good, possessory, qualified, and absolute. They could have whichever of those titles they chose, but when they had made their choice they must pay their money. As regarded the test of swiftness, his case was that it led to intolerable delay. There were two processes—the ordinary method of conveyance as between vendor and purchaser, and the other process of registration in which was interposed this practice of Government registration, which was so great a source of delay. The representatives of building societies were strongly opposed to this objectionable system, and the representatives of co-operative building societies had condemned the system, while professional men in the provinces were aghast because of the delay. When, he would ask, had the interposition of a Government office ever facilitated the despatch of business?

Then with regard to the question of security, his point was that there was no security as to title. It had been decided in the Court of Appeal, in the case of the Capital and Counties Bank *v.* Rhodes (in which the Lords Justices of Appeal had used strong expressions as to the intricacies of the system) that when a property had been registered, it was not necessary to go to the Registry again on subsequent transactions, thus showing, judicially, on what a rotten foundation the whole system stood. After all the expenses incurred, after all the protection claimed for registration, they found that the Lord Justices, after hearing the case said that the register was absolutely immaterial for the purpose of deciding who had the legal estate, which was the very basis on which the Act existed. Thus, it had been decided by the Court that it was unnecessary to go into the question as to the whereabouts of the legal estate. A Select Committee of the House of Commons had declared that the possessory certificate was "a useless additional expense to the ordinary conveyance." The Registrar himself had said—

> "The far better plan is to have it quite understood that the possessory certificate not only is not to be relied upon for anything prior to registration, but that it entirely ignores it, and that people must look outside for all encumbrances prior."

So that the system in regard to security had absolutely failed. Then, in conclusion, with regard to the question of economy. The additional charge was accompanied by complication, delay and insecurity; there was absolutely no economy in connection with it; on the contrary, there was a gross and disgraceful expenditure of public money. In 1904–5, the expenses of the Registry exceeded the income by no less than £11,000. In nine years fines had been levied on London house and property owners to the amount of about £430,000. It was well known that by far the largest number of transactions were in small properties of £500 and less, and the small house and property owner was the most badly hit under the Land Registry Act. Take a property bought at £400. Under the scale which obtained apart from land registration, the cost amounted to £8, but now, under the operation of the Land Registry Act, it was £11 6s., an increase of 41 per cent. on such a small transfer as that. On a property of £200 it cost £6, and it was now £7 13s., an increase of 27 per cent; on £90 the transfer was £3 10s., and now it was £4 6s. 6d., or an increase of 24 per cent. The whole system was a glaring example of misapplied officialism. It had been declared to be experimental, yet all inquiry had been shirked. It had been condemned by bankers, bankers institutes, building societies, co-operative building societies, architects, engineers, and nearly all conveyancing experts; and the time had now arrived when inquiry should be made into the whole question. This system was nothing short of a scandal and a gross example of how officialism, left to itself without proper inquiry into its operations, and without proper sanction, would most uselessly spend public money to the detriment of the public service.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

PROBATION OF OFFENDERS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. HALDANE, in moving the Second Reading, said it was desirable that he should make some brief explanation of the Bill. He was not sanguine that the Committee stage would be shorter than usual, but fewer Amendments of substance had been introduced than was ordinarily the case. The first change merely accelerated the date on which the Act came into operation outside the United Kingdom. The second change was a verbal Amendment necessitated by what was done last year in the way of substituting detention for imprisonment. There were two further changes of more importance. The Government gave an undertaking last year to consider the schedule of food provided to soldiers who were billeted. They found that the soldier who was billeted got one substantial meal, and he also got a breakfast of tea and bread which was inadequate. The Government had added bacon. It was good, wholesome, substantial food and universally popular. Moreover, they had cut down the pretentious magnitude of the middle meal, and added a supper. The result had been an increase of 3d. in the charge. Hitherto the soldier had been allowed two pints of beer, but now he was to be left with one, and he would be enabled to ask for the equivalent of beer in mineral water. That was, however, not quite so bad as it looked, because over and above this he would have 3d. of his own with which, if so minded, he could obtain another pint of beer. That was all he had to say upon the schedule, and to his mind, though, to be sure, he was no authority upon such things, the soldier would be better off than before. Then he came to the last point of change in relation to field punishments. Upon that there had hitherto been difficulty. In South Africa there was a very small class of undeserving men, who, by the commission of some offence, contrived to get themselves arrested for trial by court-martial, and in consequence, having to be sent to the base, escaped the burden and the risks of war. The matter was considered very carefully by a strong military committee, and it had been decided that there should be trial in the field, and that certain field punishments should be awarded. Those punishments were very carefully guarded, so that no punishment should be inflicted that caused injury to life or limb, and there would be no flogging or anything of that kind. There might be forfeiture of pay for limited periods, or it would be in the power of the Commander-in-Chief to declare any place in camp a prison or detention barrack with punishments, which might include handcuffing, not to exceed two hours a day or for more than three days out of four. That would be a substitute for imprisonment, and it was the only way they could do it in the field. Ordinary field punishment would be deprivation of camp privileges, and generally the punishments would be such that would not be a relief to the skulker by his being sent to the base. Under those strict limitations the Government thought it right to introduce field punishments. Last year they swept flogging out of the Statute Book altogether, and the Government felt in doing so they had acted upon the best advice and taken the safest and wisest course. That was all he need say upon the Second Reading. The Committee stage would be put down for Wednesday, when, no doubt, there would be the usual lively and interesting discussion. He moved that the Bill be read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said there were a few questions which he should like to put to his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War. Of all subjects that could come before the House this one was the most difficult for them to deal with. It was impossible to understand what was now being proposed without reading former Acts of Parliament and the Amendments which had been made to the King's Regulations from time to time. He strongly appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to put an end to the scandal of legislating by reference in the Army Annual Bill. He hoped the matter would be looked into with a view to making the proposals more intelligible to the people who had to come under them. Certain suggestions were made last year with a view to mitigating some of the hardships. The Duke of Connaught, as Inspector-General, had issued a Memorandum which was very strongly in favour of the most advanced views on the subject of military law. He had recently put a Question in the House to the Secretary for War upon the subject, and the reply he received was that the points raised by the Inspector-General had been dealt with partly under the provisions included in last year's Army Annual Bill, and partly by amendments to the King's Regulations promulgated by Army Order No. 36 of this year. The only allusion to the subject in that Army Order was—

> "Amendments regarding military punishments and the method of reporting them have been approved, and copies will be issued to all concerned."

He mentioned that simply to show the difficulty of understanding changes made in this way. He appealed strongly to the Secretary of State for War to put an end to the scandal of legislating in the Army Bill by reference. The more the right hon. Gentleman wished to popularise the Army the more necessary it was that the men should have some sort of idea of the system under which they served. He wished to put certain definite questions to his right hon. friend. His first question was in regard to the drafting Amendment on page 4, Clause 9, of the Bill, subsection 2, which repealed Section 135a of the Army Act of last year. It was proposed to repeal the whole section and to substitute for it the third schedule of the Bill. He would ask any hon. Member if he could understand the change. He was quite willing to accept the statement of his right hon. friend that it was a mere drafting change, but he could not suggest to the House that it was a drafting change which made things simpler or more easily understood. Section 135a was very clear. If they were to pass the Bill in the form in which it now stood—that was a matter for consideration in Committee—he and his friends would be obliged to renew their appeal that the law should be codified and put in an intelligible form. At line 32 on page 5 of the Bill now before the House they would find the following proviso—

> "Provided that a provost marshal and his assistants shall, as respects any soldier in his or their custody and undergoing field punishment, have the same powers as the governor of a military prison."

The Secretary of State had power to prescribe the duties of a governor of a military prison, and from time to time such regulations had been issued, but he doubted whether anyone was thoroughly competent to state what those powers were. That was the reason why he thought they should not agree to the proviso without knowing what those powers were. There were two points on which he wished to inquire. At the bottom of page 6 it was provided by the Bill that the officer commanding-in-chief in the field, and any general officer he might appoint, should exercise the powers which were given in the original Act to certain more easily-defined persons. They were the powers of reducing a non-commissioned officer to the ranks. Those were powers which it seemed natural should be conferred, and he only raised the point to inquire why they were conferred now, when it had not been thought necessary to do so before. But the point on which he laid more stress was the provision that the powers of the Secretary of State should be exercisable by officers commanding-in-chief in the field, as the last four lines of the proviso appeared to sweep away the whole of the existing limitations on those powers. Those words at the top of page 6 of the Bill were most startling. He would like to refer the House to Section 133 of the existing Act. That was a section which had been referred to over and over again in the House, and certain portions of it dated back to the great discussions which raged for fourteen days when the Army Annual Bill was in Committee before 1880—discussions in which Mr. Parnell took a prominent part. That section gave power to the Secretary of State to make, alter, and repeal rules for the government and regulation of military prisons. It included among the things for which rules might be made the maintenance of discipline among prisoners and punishment by personal correction. There used to occur the words "not exceeding twenty-five lashes." Only the words "personal correction" remained, but there was a proviso that—

> "Such rules shall not authorise corporal punishment to be inflicted for any offence, nor render imprisonment more severe than it is under the law in force for the time being in any public prison in England."

The new Sub-section 5 of the present Bill, however, provided that the limitations on the power of making rules as to the punishment of prisoners and soldiers and as to the severity of imprisonment should not apply. He imagined that that referred to the sub-section to which he had just called attention. If that was so, the effect of the repeal was startling, and must go infinitely beyond the intention of the Secretary of State.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) said he did not propose to offer any criticism of the Bill at that stage, but he wished to ask the Secretary of State to explain one point. The point to which he referred was the proposal in Clause 4 to insert in Section 43 of the Army Act after "to the prescribed general officer" the following words—

> "Or in the case of a soldier serving in India to such officer as the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in India with the approval of the Governor-General of India in Council may appoint."

He did not know the reason for the addition of the words proposed. Although there might be good reasons for the change, it seemed at first sight that it would be better for the soldier in India, or anywhere else, to know exactly to whom he was to apply in case of grievance. That was especially so in a climate like that of India, where people in all positions were apt to imagine that they were being badly treated and to become irritable. All those who sat on the Opposition side of the House who advocated that a fuller and better breakfast should be given to the private soldier were grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for the concession now given; but he wished to make the suggestion that for the words in the schedule "Four ounces of bacon," there should be substituted "four ounces of meat," having regard to the fact that soldiers of Jewish extraction would be unable to eat the bacon, it being repugnant to their religion.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said he was sorry to detain the House at that hour, but he felt that the real point to which his right hon. friend the Member for Forest of Dean had referred must have escaped the notice of the Secretary for War. He meant that part of the Amendment on page 6 dealing with the penal code. He agreed with his right hon. friend that the Amendment proposed made the penal code against a soldier far more severe than at present. For himself he believed that it would be far wiser for this country to follow the example of France, and to abolish courts-martial in times of peace, and to rely only on the civil code; but in any case the House should see to it that the Army Annual Act was not made more severe. He thought that the discipline of the Army depended more and more on the *morale* of the troops and less and less on punishments. He protested against the theory that victory could be achieved by terrorism of the soldier either in peace or in war, and that was proved in the Russo-Japanese War. He supposed that this particular clause had been put in by inadvertence, or in order to meet a supposed inconvenience which might arise in time of war; but he thought it would do more than that. He had never heard of any man committing a minor offence in order that he might be sent back to the base. He appealed to the Secretary for War to make some statement which would relieve the minds of some hon. Members, even if he could not go the whole length of repealing the penal code in time of peace.

Lord R. CECIL protested against the suggestion made by the hon. Member for Abercromby that the penal code was wanted in order to terrorise the soldiers to fight; it was only meant to preserve discipline in time of war. However, what he specially wanted to call attention to was that the Bill was really an extraordinary bad example of legislation by reference. It was legislation by reference carried to the point of absolute unintelligibility. It was impossible to form the slightest idea of what the effect of the alterations in the existing law would be, because from Clause 4 to Clause 10, occupying three pages of the Bill, consisted entirely of legislation by reference. He quite recognised that it would be unreasonable for the Secretary for War to re-cast the whole of the Army Annual Act every year for the purpose of introducing a few alterations; but the right hon. Gentleman might follow the example set by his colleagues, the President of the Local Government Board and the hon. Member for Somerset, who had printed as a Parliamentary Paper a short document setting out the effect of proposed legislation on existing legislation. It could be quite easily done, because it must all have been worked out beforehand by the Department.

Mr. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) desired to add a word about dealing drastically and effectively with the Army Act. He thought that if it was generally realised by hon. Members who had or might have to carry out the provisions of the Army Act, how every officer of the auxiliary forces might be called upon to interpret it, and to sit as a member of a court-martial which had to administer it, and if they realised the difficulty that even trained lawyers found in interpreting an Act of this kind, they would realise the great importance of putting the Army Act in a really simple form. He could recall one occasion in his own personal experience which rather pointed to that necessity. A court-martial became necessary in a large Volunteer camp. The court-martial was appointed. An up-to-date edition of the Army Act was not obtainable. It not only was not obtainable in the camp, which contained, he thought, about four brigades of Volunteers, but it was not obtainable at the headquarters of the regimental district, which were within reach, and where a telegram was sent asking for the Army Act. In fact the court-martial had to administer an Act which not a single member of the court-martial had ever seen in his life, and which was not obtainable for the use of the court-martial. He dared say it did not much matter. If they had obtained the Act they would not have understood it, and he did not suppose the prisoner or anyone else was any the wiser or any the worse for the fact that they had not the Act to know what was in it; but the fact remained that the Act which was put in force year after year, by the House, and which had to be administered, or might have to be administered by officers of the auxiliary forces without any special legal training—men who needed a simple, clear, concise Act to guide their judgment and an Act which ought to be understood by the prisoner upon whom those officers were sitting in judgment—could not be obtained. He thought they were justified in urging upon the right hon. Gentleman, perhaps when he had carried out his great scheme of setting up a Territorial Army, that he should prepare a scheme of putting the Army Act on a really simple and intelligible basis. There was another point. Section 7 of the Army Annual Bill, he thought, would have a very curious effect. It repealed Paragraph E. of Sub-section 2 of Section 180 of the Army Act. That

Section 180 referred to the penalties which could be imposed upon officers of the Indian Staff Corps. It said—

> "A court martial may sentence an officer of the Indian Staff Corps to forfeit all or any part of his Army or staff service, or all or any part of both."

He took it that by doing that they put the officers of the Indian Staff Corps on quite a different footing from any other officers, for officers under Section 44 of the Army Act could be sentenced to forfeiture of senior pay, which, he took it, was much the same thing. Under this section, up to the passing of the Army Annual Bill, a similar sentence, though in rather different words, could be inflicted upon officers of the Indian Staff Corps. Now that was done away with. He could not think that it was the intention of the right hon. Gentleman to place the officers in India on a different footing from officers in other parts of the Empire. There was one other point—that under Section 10 of the Army Annual Bill, "Paragraph 1 (c) Provisos 6, 7, and 8 shall be repealed." Provisos 6, 7, and 8 referred to Section 44 of the existing Army Act, and there again there were matters which required some explanation from the right hon. Gentleman. Proviso 6 appeared to be that—

> "The said summary punishment shall not be inflicted on a non-commissioned officer or on a reduced non-commissioned officer for any offence committed while holding the rank of a non-commissioned officer."

That was making the penal code harsher than in the past. He did not think that that was a thing the House would consent to without an explanation from the right hon. Gentleman. Proviso 7 was a definition of the offence of aggravated drunkenness. If they did away with that definition they would make more than one section and sub-section of the Army Act unintelligible where that offence was referred to. Proviso 8, which they were supposed to repeal, dealt with the offence of disgraceful conduct, and said—

> "That for the purposes of this section disgraceful conduct means any offence specified in Section 18 of this Act."

It appeared that they were to leave Section 18 in the Act but to repeal Proviso 8 of Clause 44, without which Section 18 was perfect nonsense. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman or his legal advisers would consider these matters and deal with them. In order to give the right hon. Gentleman an opportunity of replying to the points which had been raised, he begged to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said he desired to second the Motion of his hon. friend, not in any hostile spirit, but because he thought it had been shown from all parts of the House that hon. Members regarded it as a great departure that that Bill, which might be described as reference gone mad, should be brought forward on a Monday night when the print had only been circulated a few hours previously. He quite agreed that it was not the intention of the right hon. Gentleman to catch the House napping and to pass the Bill without the House being aware of its importance. But the Secretary of State must know that the House could not master in a few hours all the details of so complicated a measure. Those Members who had seen the vicissitudes through which Army Annual Bills had passed year after year were asked now to pass a Bill of far greater importance than any which had preceded it; a

Bill giving larger powers to individuals than had ever been conferred on any officer or Secretary of State. That being so, he felt that some full opportunity must be given for discussing the subject. If the right hon. Gentleman could not throw upon one of his colleagues the duty of satisfying the House that the Bill was not of the far-reaching character that some thought, it would be better for the country and the Army to go without the Army Annual Bill for a year in order that the House might know what the alterations were under which the rank and file would perform their duties. He begged to second the Motion.

Amendment proposed,—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. HALDANE thought the House ought to be zealous of the liberty of the subject, and none the less because the subject was a soldier instead of a civilian. But as regards the country being without the Bill for twelve months he hardly thought the House would agree with the hon. Gentleman opposite. Having regard to considerations which would arise, the Bill must be passed. The difficulty was as to time. Of a necessity the Bill came late in the session, because the number of soldiers could not be included until Vote "A" both of the Army and of the Navy were obtained. He hoped, however, to satisfy the House that the Bill was far from a revolutionary Bill. He sympathised with the noble Lord in his desire for a plain Bill. They had not codified the law, because codification took considerable time, but they had had the Act reprinted with the alterations shown in the Bill, and if hon. Members looked at the copies in the library they would find that it had been made pretty nearly as plain as if it had been subjected to the drastic treatment of the Statute Law Committee. He thought the time would come, and was probably near, when the whole of the Army Act would be recast. There were provisions in the Bill which gave rise to difficulties in the minds of persons reading the Bill the first time.

LORD R. CECIL said he did not ask the right hon. Gentleman to codify the law. He expressly asked him to follow the precedent of the Local Government Board and to print a paper showing the effect of the proposed alterations on the existing law. If the right hon. Gentleman would do that the House would know where it was.

MR. HALDANE said he promised to do that some days ago and the print was now in the Vote Office.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR pointed out that as there were clerical errors in the paper it was not of much value, because there were clerical errors in the amending Bill they were now discussing.

MR. HALDANE: Not clerical errors. The Bill had been drawn up by one of the most eminent draftsmen of the day, and he was really technically right. When the hon. and gallant Member for Sussex drew attention to the alteration of Section 82 (e), in reference to the Indian Staff, he pointed out that it was repealed. The reason why it was repealed was that the Indian Staff Corps, by amendments of the law, had been merged into the Indian Army, and therefore there was no Indian Staff Corps. The hon. and gallant Gentleman could not know all the provisions of Indian legislation with regard to that, and consequently it was natural that he should find the provision a little obscure, and a good many of the criticisms which had been made were based on that footing. There were two or three other points which had been raised, but they were mostly Committee points, except a very serious one raised by his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean, in regard to part of Clause 10.

*Sɪʀ CHARLES DILKE said that undoubtedly the limitations were struck out which he had read, so that the exact meaning of the provisions as to personal correction was, of course, doubtful.

Mʀ. HALDANE said last year Section 9 of the Army Annual Act was passed, which enacted in explicit terms that the rules made under Sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Army Annual Act, relating to military prisons, should not authorise the infliction of corporal punishment.

*Sɪʀ CHARLES DILKE said that that appeared to him to be among the limitations to which he had alluded.

Mʀ. HALDANE said it was not intended to be, but before the Committee stage it would be scrutinised and put beyond doubt. What they had sought to do was simply to change the tribunal, but the point with regard to flogging would be made quite distinct on the Committee stage.

Mʀ. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) said the Paper to which his noble friend referred had not yet been printed. In view of the fact that the hon. Gentleman had himself admitted that without the Paper they would really not know what they were doing, he hoped they would have some assurance that it would be presented to-morrow.

Tʜᴇ FINANCIAL SECRETARY ᴛᴏ ᴛʜᴇ WAR OFFICE (Mr. Bᴜᴄʜᴀɴᴀɴ, Perthshire, E.) said he had got his Paper on Friday morning amongst his Parliamentary Papers.

Mʀ. BOWLES: I have just been to the Vote Office.

Vɪsᴄᴏᴜɴᴛ VALENTIA (Oxford) said the printed Paper in the form of a book was an advance copy, and it could not be got until four o'clock that afternoon. He knew that hon. Members could not get hold of that book, and it was not in the library now.

Mʀ. HALDANE promised to make inquiry.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Wednesday.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday evening, Mr. Sᴘᴇᴀᴋᴇʀ adjourned the House, without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 19th March, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Borax Consolidated Bill [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill [H.L.]; Staveley Coal and Iron Company Bill [H.L.]; Devonport Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Tees Conservancy Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Oxford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Medway Lower Navigation Bill [H.L]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L]. Presented (pursuant to leave given this day). Read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, your Lordships will see on the Paper two Bills with the same title. One of them is a Bill affecting England and the other a Bill affecting Scotland only, and in accordance with the Standing Orders the Scottish Bill had to be introduced in the first instance, under the Scottish procedure, as an Order in Scotland, but as it affected exactly the same subject as the English Bill it was thought better that the Order should be brought up to London and be made into a Bill. I consequently have to ask your Lordships to agree to the Bills not being further proceeded with, and to Standing Order No. 86 being dispensed with, and leave being given to the promoters of the Bills to present a consolidated Bill in lieu thereof.

Moved, "That the Bills be not further proceeded with, that Standing Order No. 86 be dispensed with, and that leave be given to the promoters of the said Bills to present a consolidated Bill in lieu thereof."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

BYRNE'S DIVORCE BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order).

[The EARL of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I do not rise with any intention of discussing this Bill, but I should like to refer to the last clause as a matter for the consideration of the Lord Chancellor. The clause is found in every Divorce Bill and the effect of it is that the party who is incriminated and has been guilty of misconduct is forbidden to marry a particular person. I believe the clause is inserted in consequence of a Standing Order.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: No, it is not a Standing Order.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I had been informed that it was. At any rate, the clause is invariably found in every Bill of this kind, and is as invariably struck out in the Committee stage. I think it is worthy of consideration by the Lord Chancellor whether some procedure might not be taken to end that inconvenient practice.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My noble friend is quite right in saying that this clause is always put in and always struck out. I do not

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

know the reason for its insertion; it is lost in the mist of antiquity. It is obvious that the clause ought not to be inserted, and I now beg to move its omission.

Amendment moved, "That the last clause be omitted."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill reported, with an Amendment to the House.

Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Ordered that all petitions presented with respect to the Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.], and the Electric Supply Corporation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.], be deemed to have been presented in respect of the said Bill.

Galwey's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence taken before this House, together with the proceedings and the documents deposited in the case: Ordered to be communicated, with a request that they may be returned.

United Methodist Church Bill [H.L.]; City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.]. Reports from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES.

No. 8. (1907). Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the boundary between the Gold Coast and the French Soudan, 19th July, 1906.

No. 10. (1907). International agreement respecting the unification of the pharmacopœial formulas for patent drugs; signed at Brussels, 29th November, 1906.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland, for the year 1906.

Memorandum on the teaching of English in Scottish primary Schools.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Lord Loreburn.

ST. LUCIA.

Amended prison rule and diet scales: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

ORDER IN DEBATE.

*LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the Standing Orders of the House which relate to matters of Order in Debate; and to move to resolve, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Standing Orders of the House which relate to Order in Debate, and to report what alterations, if any, are desirable in those Standing Orders." The Motion which I now have the honour of submitting to your Lordships has been on the Notice Paper for some considerable time, and I regret that I was unable to move it during last session owing to the stress of business, and I further apologise to the House that owing to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to bring it forward this session at the time appointed.

I must confess that, speaking from this side of the House and as a Member of the Party to which I have had the honour to belong for a great many years, I approach at the present moment and in the present political juncture any question referring to the House of Lords with very considerable diffidence. But I think it will be admitted that my Motion, though it may, no doubt, have many faults both in its purport and in its phraseology, at any rate does not err in the direction of being over-ambitious or revolutionary. It obviously has nothing whatever to do with those weighty considerations, the relations of the two Houses, which were referred to in the gracious Speech from the Throne; nor can it in any way soar to those constitutional heights to which I am glad to say my noble friend Lord Newton is going to ask your Lordships to ascend in the month of May. I hope I shall have the advantage of the support of my noble friend for this Motion on the present occasion.

The Motion standing in my name pledges no one who votes for it to any reform whatever. It merely pledges its supporters to set up a Committee which may examine and report with regard to those Standing Orders of your Lordships' House which affect the question of order in debate. I have frequently heard it said since my Motion has been on the Notice Paper that I intended by it to cast some reflection upon the conduct of our debates during the Committee stage of the Education Bill last autumn, and to imply that some unnecessary disorder took place at that time. I say at once that nothing is further from my thoughts than to imply any censure on the conduct of those debates or of anyone who was responsible for their conduct. I certainly wish to reflect in no way upon my noble friend the Lord Chairman of Committees, or upon the three most distinguished Members of the House—the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Lord Chancellor—who during my experience have generally interfered, and rightly interfered, on matters of order with a view to counselling your Lordships when difficulties arose; and, least of all, if I may say so without presumption, do I wish to cast any reflection upon your Lordships as a body, for I must say I listened to those debates with the utmost admiration.

When we consider that day after day for an unprecedented period we were sitting here from half past four in the afternoon to nearly twelve o'clock at night; when we remember that in this crowded assembly there must have been many noble Lords who, from the well-known acoustic properties of this House, were unable to hear the conversation at this Table, and that other noble Lords, from the difficulty and technicality of the subject as well as the multiplicity of the Amendments, must have found equal difficulty in understanding what was said, I venture to think this House at that time showed a spectacle of dignity and decorum which was a shining example to other and more popular assembles on similar occasions. At the same time it is perfectly true, that, during those arduous and protracted debates, the unprecedented length of our discussions, the unprecedented number of Peers present, and the unprecedented number of Amendments which were showered upon the Table, naturally focussed the attention of Members on the question whether it would not be possible to improve, in some way, the ancient Standing Orders relating to order in debate. I think that that was a feeling which was not confined to any one quarter of the House, but was very nearly general. I have said that I wish to cast no reflection upon the conduct of those debates nor upon those who were responsible. I may go further and say that since I have had the honour of a seat in your Lordships' House, now more than twelve years, I have felt that on ordinary occasions and at ordinary times the mode of our procedure, I will not call it the free-and-easy mode, but the elasticity of our procedure, is sometimes extremely beneficial; and I hope that if your Lordships consent to the setting up of a Committee to examine into our Rules of Order the question of elasticity in a House consituted as this is will not be overlooked.

Having said that I may be asked, Why cannot you leave it alone? Why bring forward this Motion at all? I say at once that I base my reasons for asking your Lordships to grant an inquiry into this subject on the changed and changing conditions of the political atmosphere and the possibilities of this House; on the increased attendance of Peers; on the increased length of our discussions; on the increased numbers of Amendments that were moved last Autumn to our Bills, and this, no doubt, will happen in the case of other Bills brought forward; and on the increased numbers of speakers taking part in our debates.

With regard to the increased number of Peers attending and the increased number of speeches, I think that is a subject upon which we may heartily congratulate ourselves, because the severest criticisms that I have ever heard passed on your Lordships' House have generally been founded on the scantiness of our attendance and the shortness of our debates; and though, as a Party man, I may have sometimes last autumn regretted the overflowing battalions which rallied behind the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition to defeat measures which I thought were for the good of the country, yet as a member of this assembly I do think on the whole that as long as your Lordships' House is constituted as it is, and as long as your Lordships have seats and voices and votes in it, it is far better that you should come and listen to and take part in the debates than flood the lobbies when divisions take place without having heard any of the arguments.

As to the increased number of speakers and the increased output of oratory, that is a somewhat delicate subject which I shall not pursue at any length, except to say that if it be true, as I think it is, that there are an increased number of speakers in this House as compared with former times it is not peculiar to your Lordships' Assembly, but is rather distinctive of the period in which we live. In old days the debates in both Houses of Parliament were left to two or three prominent members of one Party or the other, who represented the feelings of their followers; but in these days that has entirely changed, and, owing to the increased interest taken in these matters and the greater gift of oratory possessed generally, there are very few Members of either House who are not able to deliver a long and elaborate speech.

I know your Lordships do not care for statistics, but I should like to be allowed to justify what I have said with regard to the increased number of Peers attending our debates and the increased interest which is taken in the legislation submitted to this House. I could take any number of Bills during the last fifty years, but I prefer to take the three important Education Bills because they are somewhat germane. I will take the Education Bills of 1870, 1902, and 1906. The Education Bill of 1870 was, I need not remind your Lordships, a very important measure. It was what is called, in political slang, an epoch-making measure; and, in addition, the sectarian question, which, unfortunately, seems always bound up with our elementary schools, was very much to the front. Yet the Committee stage of that Bill only occupied one day in your Lordships' House. The Report stage also took one day, and there was only one division. In 1902 the Committee stage of the Education Bill lasted three days, and the Report stage one day, and there were nine divisions. Then we come to the Bill of last year. On that occasion we were in Committee sixteen full days, commencing at 4.30 p.m. and sitting, with one exception, till 11 p.m. and later. We discussed the Bill two days on Report, making eighteen days in all, and there were eighteen divisions. I think these statistics amply justify my contention that the House is taking—most rightly taking—an increased and increasing interest in the affairs of the country.

Then I come to the number of Peers attending. In 1870 the largest number of Peers voting was 125; in 1902 the number rose to 207; but in 1906 the largest number of Peers voting was 312. It may be said, of course, that the Education Bill of last year was a very exceptional measure, that it was an isolated instance of general interest, and that such circumstances would never occur again. Does anyone here suppose for an instant that during the next four or five years, or it may be more than four or five years, other measures will not be submitted to your Lordships of equal or of surpassing importance, and that your Lordships will not find it to be necessary to devote an equal, if not a greater, amount of criticism, industry, and eloquence to those measures in the future than were devoted to the Education Bill of last autumn? If that be so, and I think he would be a very bold man who would say that my contention is not a right one, surely it is wise for your Lordships to set up a Committee at the present moment to inquire whether the Rules of Procedure could not be improved rather than wait till some more inopportune moment when you are under an even greater glare of criticism than now.

There are plenty of precedents for this Committee. I will not weary your Lordships by referring to more than the last one, which was appointed in 1888, and presided over by Lord Cadogan, who was then Lord Privy Seal in the Conservative Government of the day. That Committee was certainly a precedent for the Committee I am now asking your Lordships to appoint, and as it was a precedent for its constitution I hope it will also be a precedent for its outcome, for from that Committee came one of the most useful and businesslike bodies that I have ever had the honour of sitting in—I refer to the Standing Committee of your Lordships' House, to which are automatically referred all measures which have passed the Second Reading stage. I shall not presume to say exactly what the improvement in your Rules ought to be. It may be that after inquiry by this Committee your Lordships may find that it is difficult or impossible to make any alteration at all.

But there are one or two difficulties which occur to me, and which I think ought to be mentioned in order to make good my case.

There is, of course, one vital question —the question of order. In your Lordships' House, as in all public assemblies originally, the question of order rests with the House as a body—that is to say, if it is necessary to determine whether a matter is in order or not, whether a Member is in order or not, it is for the House as a whole to determine that question. That was the case with all legislative assemblies originally, but it was found convenient in all those cases, in order to facilitate the progress of business, that the House should delegate to one person chosen by themselves the power which they themselves as a body possessed. As your Lordships know, in this House, when points of order arise, the inconvenience is sometimes great. It is necessary, if there is a dispute as to whether a certain matter is in order, and if it is pushed to a vote, that we should adopt the cumbrous and inconvenient process of going into the lobbies to determine the point.

So also with regard to the question of order of speakers. Everyone in this House naturally has a right to address his fellow Peers; but two noble Lords may rise at the same time, and the only way in which it can be determined whether one speaker or the other is to have the ear of the assembly, supposing it is disputed, is, as I have said, by the cumbrous process of dividing. Some of your Lordships must remember the historic occasion when that took place, and when at this Table there arose the late Lord Granville and the late Lord Cairns. They were both anxious to speak at the same time, and it was not until noble Lords had divided that the question of who should have precedence was decided. That system has its disadvantages, and might very well be rectified.

Then it may be said that, although the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chairman have neither of them more right to interfere in questions of order than the most junior baron of your Lordships' House, they might take upon themselves to exercise a greater freedom with regard to imposing order on the assembly, and that in doing so they would receive the support of the majority of your Lordships' House. Several noble Lords say "Hear, hear!" I venture to think that if any of your Lordships who say "Hear, hear" were Chairmen yourselves that is the last thing you would do, and I will tell you why. The Chairman being, as he is, a most prominent Member of your assembly, would naturally be more scrupulous than any private Member not to overstep in the slightest degree that limited amount of order invested in him, and therefore I venture to think that if noble Lords who say "Hear, hear" wish the Chairman to possess that power they must delegate it to him officially and by vote of the House.

Then it has been said that if you give the Lord Chairman these added powers you must also give them to the Lord Chancellor, otherwise it would be said that you were putting that high and dignified official in a position lower than the Lord Chairman. I agree that there is a great deal to be said in that direction. I also think that, when we take into consideration that my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor, who is, as your Lordships remember, constituted the Speaker of this House, has a great deal more to do than the Speaker of the other House; when we remember that the Lord Chancellor may possibly spend his mornings in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, sometimes in the Court of Appeal, sometimes in presiding over the judicial business of this House, and then has to sit on the Woolsack during extended discussions on important Bills, it will be agreed that the House is imposing upon him duties almost too much for any one man to bear. There are such officials as Deputy-Speakers. You might give the Lord Chancellor the same powers as you give the Chairman of Committees, but you might also appoint a Deputy-Speaker and give to the Deputy-Speaker the same powers as he is given in other assemblies. That would enable the Lord Chancellor, when unable to be present, to have a deputy with full powers in this matter.

The question of Deputy-Speakers might well be entered into. At the present moment there are, I think, five Members of your Lordships' House who have a right to sit upon the Woolsack. There is the Lord Chancellor and the Chairman of Committees, who are, I believe appointed by Royal Commission. There are, in addition, by custom, the ex-Lord

Chancellor and the two Whips of the great Parties—in the present case Lord Waldegrave and Lord Ribblesdale. Those five noble Peers are the only Members of your Lordships' House who have a right to sit upon the Woolsack, but if the Chairman of Committees, who is senior to the other noble Lords, is present in the House, the other noble Lords are unable to sit upon the Woolsack. Therefore, in the absence of the Lord Chancellor it has come about that the Chairman of Committees has been standing at this Table reporting the decision of a Committee of the House to an empty Woolsack, and then, stepping quickly over the floor and taking a seat upon the Woolsack, he has himself received his own Report—a process which must remind your Lordships more of a celebrated character in comic opera than the staid procedure of your Lordships' House. I think that such a question as this, for instance, might well receive the attention of the Committee which I hope your Lordships will agree to constitute.

It may be that the Committee may find it inconvenient, perhaps impossible, to alter the Regulations at all; but if, as I thoroughly anticipate, they find they are able to combine elasticity with efficiency, then I think they will have done something to further the dignity and the authority of your Lordships' House. Before sitting down I will ask your Lordships to allow me to put myself entirely out of order, as an example of that elasticity in our Rules to which I have referred. I wish to allude to the next Question which stands in my name on the Paper—

> "To ask the Lord Privy Seal whether he can now state what course His Majesty's Government propose to adopt with regard to the question of Peers who have sat and voted without taking the oath."

I hope your Lordships will allow me to allude to this notice before I sit down, because I think it will be for the convenience of the House that I should do so. I do not think it is necessary for me in any way to go into the circumstances which occurred last autumn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I rise to order. I believe it is for the general advantage, not only of this assembly, but of all assemblies, that we should discuss only one thing at a time. I remember during the debates on the Education Bill, which appear to have elicited such a large amount of admiration from my noble friend, that on one occasion a Member of the Episcopal Bench, after having delivered a very long speech, thought it would be a very good thing if he were then to proceed and enter upon an Amendment of his own. That led to considerable confusion, and at last he was called to order. I think when my noble friend is so anxious to preserve order he should not be the person to propose to depart from it, and therefore I beg to move——

*LORD BURGHCLERE: If the noble Earl had allowed me to proceed he would have found that it would have been for the convenience of the House that I should state what I had to say. But, as he takes exception, I certainly bow to such a champion of order as my noble friend.

Moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Standing Orders of the House which relate to Order in debate, and to Report what alterations, if any, are desirable in those Standing Orders."—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: My Lords, the noble Lord who has just sat down has made several references to the position of the Chairman of Committees of your Lordships' House, and therefore perhaps I may be allowed to make a few observations upon the speech which the noble Lord has delivered. Not that I want in any way to oppose the appointment of the Committee which he suggests, though I confess I am somewhat at a loss to know what that Committee will report. I do not think that I can be accused of being a crusted Tory, who believes that "all that is is best," but I certainly feel proud of the dignity and gentlemanlike manner in which the business of this House is conducted upon almost every occasion. I think it was Lord Campbell who said that this House, though believed to be the most august Assembly in the world, was perhaps the most disorderly. The fact that that had never been discovered up to the speech of my noble friend, I think speaks well for the manner in which——

LORD BURGHCLERE: I beg my noble friend's pardon. I specially guarded myself from saying that I thought the House had been disorderly.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I said that what Lord Campbell had stated had never been discovered by anybody. How is the business of your Lordship's House conducted? It is conducted in accordance with a general sense of what is proper by the Members of the House. If anyone rises and makes a speech which, in the opinion of any Member, is out of order, that Member calls attention to the fact, and in nine cases out of ten—one example happened only a moment ago—the noble Lord who has been addressing the House resumes his seat at once. If that does not happen it is possible that a debate might arise, but that debate, in my experience at any rate, is usually confined to the leaders on both sides of the House. Both of them, probably, agree that the matter is one which is not entirely in order, whereupon the noble Lord, however much he may, in his own opinion, believe that what he has been doing has been in accordance with order, gives way.

Now, what is the remedy my noble friend proposes that the Committee should take into consideration? It is, as I understand him, that powers should be given to whoever presides over the Assembly to call noble Lords to order something in the same way as is done by the Speaker of the House of Commons, and by the Chairman of Ways and Means in that House. But I should like to point out to my noble friend, and I hope the Committee, if it is appointed, will consider it, that by Standing Order No. 19 the House has declared that the Lord Chancellor is not to adjourn the House or to do anything else as the mouth of the House "without the consent of the Lords first had, except the ordinary thing about Bills"—whatever that may mean—"wherein the Lords may likewise overrule." Therefore the Lord Chancellor has in every case to put anything which he may wish to submit to the House on a point of Order to the Question. He has not, like the Speaker of the House of Commons, to make any pronouncement from the Woolsack, but if he wishes to speak to anything in particular he has to go to his own place as a Peer. That Standing Order was designed, I imagine, after careful forethought and in view of the fact that the Lord Chancellor is not appointed by this House but is a nominee of the Crown. Although when I am in the Chair I occupy a position to which I have been elected by your Lordships, when I sit on the Woolsack, in the absence of the Lord Chancellor, I sit there by virtue of a Royal Commission which is issued at the beginning of every Parliament to the effect that the Lord Chancellor shall be the Speaker of the House of Lords, and that in his absence the Deputy Speaker shall be myself by name, not as Chairman of Committees.

I think your Lordships will be very doubtful as to whether you should lightly interfere with that which has been the settled practice of this House for many years. This is a matter which is not new. It has been brought forward on many previous occasions. It was brought forward by the late Lord Salisbury in 1868 and negatived. It was recommended again in a debate in this House and was again negatived, and in 1888 it was formally moved in the Committee and resolved in the negative. I should be very much surprised, therefore, if your Lordships should see fit to take a different view from that which has been taken in the past. There are several reasons why that practice should not be interfered with. To begin with, the Lord Chancellor is a member of the Government. He may not even be a Peer. There have been occasions when the Lord Chancellor has sat on the Woolsack before his patent had been made out; and both he and I, as Chairman of Committees, exercise our right to vote and speak in this House in a manner totally different and distinct from that of the Speaker and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons. I should be very sorry indeed if I were prevented from addressing your Lordships when I might wish to do so in debate, and I hope, therefore, that nothing will be done to alter the position of the Chairman of Committees.

Whenever any noble Lord has appealed to me—and some appeals were made during the progress of the education debate—I have always been most anxious and willing to give any expression of opinion and assistance in my power.

My noble friend himself on one occasion, when Lord Ridley had an Amendment on the Paper to which he was speaking, appealed to me to know what we were discussing, and I said that the House was discussing a question which I thought your Lordships had already determined, upon which Lord Ridley immediately sat down. During the whole of the thirty-three years I have had the honour of being a Member of your Lordships' House, the last three of them in the Chair of your Lordships' Committees, I have recollection of but two or three cases where an act that could seriously be called disorderly has taken place which was not immediately apologised for by the noble Lord concerned.

I remember one occasion when a noble Lord of somewhat eccentric habits was addressing the House and was called to order. He said—

> "I may not, my Lords, be your equal in debate, but I am the equal of any one of you in my shirt sleeves."

That was not an orderly remark. I remember that another noble Lord from Scotland was anxious to address the House on the subject of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, but he missed his train and did not arrive till next day, when your Lordships were discussing the question of opening museums on Sunday. Yet he got off his speech on the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill all the same. Then there was the occasion to which my noble friend has already alluded, when there was an unfortunate conflict between Lord Granville and Lord Beaconsfield. I recollect quite well that after the death of Lord Beaconsfield Lord Granville expressed to the House his great regret that he stood between the House and Lord Beaconsfield, because he subsequently learned that Lord Beaconsfield had taken a drug which made it necessary for him either to address the House at that moment or not at all. Therefore, I may say that this House has invariably been guided in matters of this kind by personal courtesy. Only last session the noble Marquess who leads the House and who is unfortunately unable to be present to-night, rose to address the House at the same time as a Peer behind him whom he did not see, and some of my noble friends behind me cried "Divide." Lord Ripon said he thought he had a right to address your Lordships as Leader of the House, and next day there was a meeting of some of my noble friends behind me, and they begged me to write a letter to Lord Ripon to explain to him that the cry "Divide" was not intended for him, for whom they all had the greatest admiration and respect, but for another noble Lord who had risen at the same time and whom he had not noticed.

As I said at the commencement of my remarks, I am not quite sure what is going to be the work of this Committee. The reference to it is confined entirely to questions of order in debate, and how far that may be regarded as covering the general business of the House I do not know. I daresay my noble friend did not make his reference wider because on previous occasions, notably in 1888, doubt arose whether a reference of this kind might not be held in some way to cover a reference in the nature of something dealing with the constitution of this House. We all know that Lord Newton has a Bill which will come on for consideration after Easter, and we should deprecate that that matter should be in any way prejudged or considered by any tribunal other than that of the House as a whole. But there are, I am willing to admit, some difficult points which arise and which I find in the position to which your Lordships have done me the honour to appoint me, more particularly the method of putting the Question. I should be very glad indeed if that could be taken into consideration.

As your Lordships are well aware, it is the rule of this House that when a question is put and the numbers are equal *semper præsumitur pro negante.* In the whole House it seldom happens that the numbers are equal, but in Joint Committees—and Joint Committees are becoming every year more common—the numbers are not infrequently found to be equal and everything depends upon the way in which the Question is put. For instance, if the Motion were to put the word "not" before the word "expedient" and the numbers were equal, the word "not" would not be put in; but if, on the other hand, the Motion were to omit the word "expedient" for the purpose of inserting "inexpedient," the word "inexpedient" would not be put in, and the clause would read nonsense. I am not putting an hypothetical case, but a case that has happened on more than one occasion. My noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh will recollect a very important measure, the London Water Board Bill. One question was intentionally put in such a way that the decision of the Committee was quite different from what it would have been if it had been put the other way. So well is that known that when your Lordships sit as a Court of Appeal the Question is not put, "That this House do affirm the decision of the Court below," but "That the decision of the Court below be reversed"; so that if the numbers on either side are equal the decision of the Court below is not reversed, but, of course, affirmed. I do not think it is right that it should depend on the ingenuity of the mover who might see a temporary advantage in making a Motion in such a manner that the decision in case of equality was not to leave matters *in statu quo*.

Then there is the question of the way in which Amendments appear on the Table of your Lordships' House. During the Education Bill debates they were marshalled every day, but upon ordinary occasions they are not so marshalled, and I was much surprised to find that it was not the practice here to furnish the Chairman of Committees with a Bill interleaved and marked with the places where the Amendment came in, though when I had, in consequence of the regrettable absence of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, to take his place when the Bill came up on Report, I found that his Purse Bearer furnished him with a copy of the Bill interleaved, with the places where the Amendments came in marked. I hope that for the future that will be the recognised practice of the House.

Then I think great inconvenience has arisen from the fact that Amendments are put down at a very late stage. I noticed during the progress of the Education Bill that on several occasions noble Lords were not furnished with copies of the Amendments. I quite agree that it would be impossible to make any rule that Amendments should be deposited by a certain time, and it would be impossible to say that Amendments might not be moved at any moment; but I do think, seeing that there are other opportunities, such as Report and Third Reading, in addition to the Committee Stage, it would be well if no Amendments were considered at the Committee Stage unless they had been circulated with the Votes at least on the morning when the Bill came under the consideration of your Lordships' House.

So far as I am personally concerned I cannot say that I have any complaint to make as to the order which your Lordships observe in debate. It is quite true that some Second Reading speeches are occasionally made in Committee, but you cannot prevent people who are deeply interested in a matter which they look upon as absolutely vital sometimes going a little further than the Amendment and raising questions that are more general. I think that was very marked during the discussions on the Education Bill, and, if I may be permitted to say so, I think principally from the right rev. Bench; but we all recognised that right rev. Prelates felt very strongly about that Bill and we were glad to give them the advantage of that elasticity which my noble friend who raised this question to-day welcomes in our debates. It was once said of an ancestor of mine—I am a descendant of three Speakers—by Mr. Burke in the House of Commons—

> "I have not the honour, as the hon. Gentleman has, of being born with order running through my veins."

I think every Member of this House has order running through his veins, and that every noble Lord endeavours to observe decency and order in debate. I think that the manner in which our debates have been conducted, notwithstanding the absence of any rules or of Chairman or Speaker to call noble Lords to order, is worthy of the great traditions of this House. It may be, as the French General said of the charge of Balaclava, that it is not war, but it is magnificent.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I note that the inquiry which is suggested by Lord Burghclere is regarded at any rate without disfavour by His Majesty's Government, and I do not think that we are called upon to raise any objection to it. At the same time I am bound to say that I do not think that the case made by the noble Lord who moved the Motion now before us was a very strong or a very convincing one. He made it clear to us that he had no complaint to make of the manner in which the House has conducted its business, notably through the trying session of last autumn. Indeed, I think he went so far as to say that the manner in which our business was conducted on the whole commended itself very much to his judgment. Nor again was he very distinct as to the alterations which he himself had in view.

But, my Lords, while I take note of those points, I am bound to admit that these Standing Orders, with which perhaps some of us are not as familiar as we might be, are a good many of them of a somewhat archaic description. I do not say that by way of reproach, because I think some of the most ancient of them are those we may still regard with most admiration. Some of them, perhaps, are not quite enough borne in mind. How many of us, for example, are careful to observe that admirable Order, which is numbered twenty-four, in which it is laid down that if any Lord has occasion to speak with another Lord while the House is sitting they are to repair to the Princes Chamber and, in particular, that they are not to converse in the space behind the Woolsack, or else the Lord Speaker is to call them to order, and, if necessary, to stop the business in agitation. It has been my duty to attend your debates pretty constantly, and I am afraid I must admit that I have very often seen that sacred space occupied by Peers who were more bent upon attending to the particular business they had in agitation than to the business before the House at the moment. But no doubt there may be minor points covering our procedure which require reconsideration in view of the fact, and it is a fact, that the number of Peers who take part in our debates tends to increase and that the speeches tend to increase in length.

I am bound to say, as a result of a somewhat long experience of this House, that I have never myself known a case in which the House was not grateful for the guidance offered to it either by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack or by the noble Lord who sits at the Table. Whenever we have found ourselves in a position of any difficulty or embarrassment, a word of advice from either of those quarters has, in my experience, always been accepted without any demur. There may, no doubt, be one or two historical episodes, such as that which has been referred to to-night when Lord Granville and Lord Beaconsfield rose together; but these really are exceptions which tend to prove the rule. On the whole, however, I rise without any idea of opposing the Motion. I am very glad that the noble mover has limited its terms. It is, I understand, restricted to the particular Orders which govern our procedure in debate—the Orders, namely, which are numbered from nineteen to thirty-six. If the Committee is so restricted I think it can certainly do no harm, and it may be of some use in dealing with those points of detail to which reference has been made in the course of the discussion.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I think we must all agree that my noble friend who introduced this subject made a very interesting speech, and I must thank him for having postponed the consideration of the question from last session, when our time was so fully taken up and when we could not possibly have given it the consideration it deserves. At the same time I regret very greatly that my noble friend who leads the House, whose experience is so unrivalled, is not here, because I have no doubt he would have been able to say something very much to the point on this question.

As my noble friend stated, this is by no means a new matter. The House has been very often exercised before on this question of order. There have been a number of cases. There was a very considerable discussion in 1869 which arose, if I remember aright, out of the rather heated debates that took place on the Irish Church Bill of that year. Then there was the well-known Committee in 1888, over which Lord Cadogan presided; and I hope I may be permitted also to express regret at Lord Cadogan's absence and the reason for that absence. The proposal, I understand, which is favoured by my noble friend is that some definite powers in the direction of keeping order in your Lordships' House should be entrusted to the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack and also to the Lord Chairman of Committees. That is a proposal which has often been made, but it is one to which so far the House has never seen fit to agree.

It was proposed, I think, in 1869 by Lord Stanhope, but he limited the powers of the Lord Chancellor to the general maintenance of order in the House and did not suggest that the noble and learned Lord should be allowed to call on particular speakers; for the obvious reason that it would place the Lord Chancellor in an extremely invidious position as a Party man, a member of the Government, if he had to call on particular speakers. In the course of the later debate Lord Granville also strongly opposed that change; and I notice that in the Committee Lord Cowper proposed that the Lord Chancellor should have these powers, but the proposal was negatived without any great degree of discussion. Some of your Lordships may remember a little occurrence of, I think, three years ago, when there was a slight misunderstanding between my noble friend Lord Ripon, who was then sitting on the Front Bench opposite, and the noble and learned Lord who then sat on the Woolsack. The then Lord Chancellor stated, with perfect truth, that he had the same right, neither more nor less, as any other Lord to call attention to any breach of order, and Lord Halsbury added—

> "Unless the Lord Chancellor took notice of a breach, nobody else would."

That, I think, was perhaps a little overstating the case, because, as a matter of fact, ever since I have been in the House there always has existed what I may call a breed of watch-dogs on the look-out for breaches of order, of whom I think my noble friend Lord Camperdown may now be considered to be the principal representative; and if, as I think likely, it is found exceedingly difficult to entrust any formal powers either to the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chairman, I hope that that breed will be encouraged in every possible way; for this reason, for one thing, that the Front Benches are not able to help very much in this matter. When the noble Lord whose speech transgresses the rule of order is on the same side of politics, the Minister or the occupant of the Front Opposition Bench is naturally unwilling to quench the enthusiasm of a friend and supporter. If, on the other hand, the speaker is an opponent, he is equally unwilling to interfere, because he is afraid that his interference may be set down rather to a dread of the cogency of the arguments which are being addressed to the House than to the prolixity or want of relevance of the speaker. And that leads me to say that, so far as my recollection of the House goes, our debates are distinctly less disputatious than they were when I first came here. But I have noticed—and I do not confine my observations to the Education Bill of last year—a very marked increase in the habit of irrelevant speaking during the last few years. I am not prepared to give any reason for what appears to me to be an incontestable fact, and if the effect of the appointment of this Committee is to encourage noble Lords in all parts of the House to rise in their places and draw attention to the very frequent cases, particularly in Committee, where a speech has very little reference to the actual subject-matter of the Amendment, I must say I think that great good will be done.

The noble Earl the Lord Chairman mentioned in particular the education debates of last year. I am very far indeed from joining in all such criticisms as were made, either in or out of the House, of the conduct of business during that discussion. On the other hand, there was, as the noble Earl has said, a considerable degree of irrelevance, and I think it is not overstating the case to say that one day, and possibly two days, of the Committee stage might have been spared to us if noble Lords in all parts of the House, not excluding, like the noble Earl, the right rev. Bench, had confined themselves to the actual matter under discussion. As I say, I do not look forward with any great degree of confidence to any marked change being recommended by the Committee in the practice of your Lordships' House. As a matter of fact, I quite agree with what the noble Marquess said just now. I believe that any intervention on the part either of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, or of the Lord Chairman when the House is sitting in Committee, would be welcomed by the House as a whole. They have, as Lord Halsbury said, the same rights as other Members of the House, and there is no reason why they should not exercise those rights oftener.

When I first came to the House Lord Redesdale was Chairman of Committees, and he kept us in very severe order indeed. I remember many years ago, when I was sitting on this Bench as a Member of the Household in charge of a Department, having an extremely bad ten minutes with the noble Lord over some point on which he thought I had transgressed; and consequently, if the only effect of the appointment of this Committee was, by the expression of a strong opinion, really to strengthen the hands of the Lord Chairman, because it is in Committee that the difficulty most arises, I should be in favour of its appointment.

But, in addition, there are two other matters which were mentioned by my noble friend Lord Onslow. He mentioned the obscurity which attached to the putting of the Question. He mentioned the case of the Water Board Committee. I was on that Committee, and I think my noble friend Lord Balfour, who acted as he technically had a perfect right to do, went through some searchings of heart before he put the Question in the form he did, in which form it had to be put if his view as to what was necessary as a Member of the Committee and of the Government of the day was to prevail. Consequently we do not oppose the appointment of this Committee, and although I cannot profess myself sanguine of any large practical result as regards serious changes in the form in which order is maintained, I think real good may come of it in a general discussion of the matter, and, as I say, by strengthening the hands of those who, from their position and experience, may be regarded, if not as official guardians of order, as its unofficial guardians.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, may I say one word in regard to the position I hold? I have no right at all to speak on questions of order, having been so short a time in this House; but I can speak in regard to the office I hold. I do most earnestly hope that nothing will be done to impose on the Keeper of the Great Seal the duty either of maintaining order in the House or of calling a particular Member of the House in debate. There is no analogy between the position of the Lord Chancellor and that of the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Speaker in another place is a popularly elected official, chosen by the whole of the Members, and is debarred from taking any part in debate. He is looked up to as an absolutely impartial official. He forsakes Party when he enters the Chair, and is practically precluded even from addressing a political meeting in the country. The anomalies of the Lord Chancellor's position are sufficient already. There is no greater anomaly than the fact that he is called upon to sit judicially and at the same time to discharge Party duties as a Member of the Cabinet. There are many other anomalies. I hope, therefore, that to the existing anomalies will not be added the extremely anomalous duties of endeavouring to maintain order in the House and of showing in the slightest degree any preference to one Member of it over another with regard to speaking. I am quite sure that the Lord Chancellor ought to be kept clear of that.

On Question, Motion agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

PEERS AND THE OATH.

LORD BURGHCLERE, who had given notice—"To ask the Lord Privy Seal whether he can now state what course His Majesty's Government propose to adopt with regard to the question of Peers who have sat and voted without taking the oath," said: My Lords, I will now resume the sentence in which I was interrupted by my noble friend Lord Camperdown. Your Lordships will remember the occasion last session when certain noble Lords voted without having taken the oath and the consequent debate that arose. The reason why I have put this Question on the Paper is that I would venture to suggest to His Majesty's Government that it might be wise to refer this matter also to the Committee just appointed. I beg to put the Question.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I can reply in a very few words to my noble friend's Question. Your Lordships will remember the circumstances under which last year certain noble Lords inadvertently, and greatly to their personal regret, transgressed the important rule that they should not sit without taking the oath.

I think we all feel that it would be desirable that some inquiry should be made into the penalties which now exist for this infraction of the law. There is something not very dignified in nominally inflicting a very large pecuniary fine which is never exacted. I think it must be generally felt at the present day that the infliction of a money penalty is not the proper sort of punishment for such an offence, and obviously if the penalties are never exacted the effect is not likely to be exceedingly deterrent. Whether it would be possible or desirable to inflict any other form of disability on noble Lords who commit this breach of the law is another matter, and one upon which I should not wish now to express any opinion; but as this Committee has been set up and must naturally be a Committee of very considerable authority, and as it has to deal with questions of order in your Lordships' House, it certainly would be a reasonable thing to refer this question to it also. Therefore, the Government will offer no opposition if the noble Lord submits a Motion to refer this Question to the same Committee.

LORD BURGHCLERE: As it would be out of order to-day to move an Amendment to a Motion already agreed to, I will give notice of a Motion for another day to extend the reference.

BRITISH INDIANS AND THE COLONIES.

*LORD AMPTHILL: My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will insist on a full discussion at the approaching Imperial Conference of the question of the disabilities of British Indians and their future treatment in the Colonies, as a matter of the highest importance to the unity of the Empire.

The noble Earl to whom my Question is directed has been good enough to hold some private communication with me on the subject, and I am sorry to say that he regards it as indiscreet of me to put this Question. If he had thought so very seriously, it would have been open to the noble Earl to have asked me to withdraw the Question, but this he has not done. I need hardly say that if, with the full weight of his authority, he had made such a request to me, I should have felt bound to remove the Question from the Paper. I must therefore feel that my indiscretion has not been more serious than that of which every questioner is guilty in the eyes of the Minister who has to reply to his Question. It has occurred to me that possibly my indiscretion may lie in the form of the Question, and that the words "insist on" may seem aggressive or hostile in some way. If that is the case, I would very gladly ask the noble Earl to allow me to substitute the word "ensure" or the words "take steps to ensure," which would express my meaning even better than the words as they stand on the Paper.

A Question similar to this has already been asked in another place, and the reply which was given by the Secretary of State for India was that the subject had not been placed on the Agenda of the Imperial Conference, but that, should opportunity offer and time permit, Mr. Morley proposed to invite the Conference to consider it. I think those who are acquainted with official phraseology will agree with me that that Answer means nothing at all. I think your Lordships will also agree that that is not the way in which to treat a question of immense importance to the Empire—a question which, as a matter of fact, vitally affects our national honour, and concerning which millions of our fellow countrymen feel keen resentment and indignation. It is on that account that I have put the Question on the Paper, as I wish to give the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies an opportunity of giving an Answer which will be more satisfactory to our fellow citizens in India.

But in order to do so it is necessary to state—but I shall be as brief as possible in doing so—what exactly is at stake. I shall confine myself mainly to the disabilities of our Indian fellow subjects in South Africa, where the grievance is at present most serious and most keenly felt. In the Australian Colonies the attitude of our kinsmen is not what we should like to see, but it is the fact that no disability so humiliating as those which exist in South Africa is imposed on resident British Indians. The treatment of British Indians by the South African Republic was regarded as one of the main justifications for the late war. It was the subject of many important statements by responsible Ministers at the time, but I need not do more than quote one of them. The noble Marquess who leads the Opposition in your Lordships' House, speaking at Sheffield in 1899, said—

> "A considerable number of the Queen's Indian subjects are to be found in the Transvaal, and among the many misdeeds of the South African Republic I do not know that any fills me with more indignation than its treatment of these Indians. What do you imagine will be the effect produced in India when these poor people return to their own country to report to their friends that the Government of the Empress, so mighty and so irresistible in India, is powerless to secure redress at the hands of a small South African State?"

It was naturally supposed, it was regarded, indeed, as a foregone conclusion, that on the termination of the war this restrictive legislation would be abrogated at once. But what is the case? The actual case is that the position of British Indians in South Africa is more intolerable now than it was under the Government of President Kruger. Well might our Indian fellow-subjects there say that the Boers may have chastised them with whips, but that under the British Government they are chastised with scorpions. I will briefly state what the difference is. Under the South African Republic British Indians could, as a matter of fact, if not actually by right, trade in any part of the Transvaal with a licence. They could live in any part of the country without molestation and without having to apply for exemption. Now, under the British flag, every Indian must live and trade exclusively in bazaars, with the exception of those who held licences to trade in town before the war, or who by virtue of education are able to obtain certificates of exemption from the local government; but these certificates at the present time are largely nominal and inoperative.

There are, besides these, many other humiliating restrictions on which I will not dwell; but, in brief, the fact is that the Boer law, which we regarded as so unjust and severe, was not in practice enforced, mainly owing to the intervention of the British Government, while the law which now prevails is more severe than that of South African Republic, and, what is worse, it is strictly enforced. This is an indignity and humiliation which is felt and keenly resented, not only by those whom it directly affects, but by every Indian to whom it is a matter of common knowledge, and the number of these latter is increasing daily and to a very remarkable degree. They regard it as a breach of faith, a violation of those solemn promises which they have been accustomed to receive from the mouths of our statesmen or in the most solemn declarations of the Sovereign of the Empire.

It is a matter of the highest importance to the cause of Imperial unity that this grievance should be removed, and in considering the matter it is as well to remember one or two leading facts in regard to the Indian Empire. The grievance to which I am alluding affects the whole of the people of India—that is to say, three-fourths of the whole population of the Empire; it affects the people of a dominion of which the trade is more important than that of any other two nations of the Empire put together; it affects that part of the Empire which must be described as the strategic pivot on which the whole defence and security of the Empire depends, and, what is more, the only part of His Majesty's Dominions except the United Kingdom that pays a full share for the defence of the Empire as a whole. I think it is absolutely necessary in view of these facts—facts which I have not hesitated to repeat, although they may seem mere platitudes, because of their enormous importance—that the people of India should be kept contented. That is an obligation which arises not only from our material interests, but also from those high moral duties which devolve upon this country and its Government.

There is at the present time unrest and discontent in India. The greater part of that discontent is due to political aspirations which we ourselves have encouraged in our fellow-citizens in India, but part of it, and by no means a negligible part, is due to the treatment of British Indians in the Colonies. I am not one of those who regard this unrest in India with any serious anxiety. In the body politic, just as in the corporeal body, unrest and ill health are often the necessary preludes to growth and development. Illness, as is well known, will often carry off some permanent weakness and disability, and so all political sores and eruptions, ugly though they look on the surface, may be the means of carrying off morbid influences which are not so apparent. But irritation must be allayed before any new regime is prescribed. We know that the Secretary of State for India is contemplating political innovations. I am glad of it; I shall welcome those innovations provided they do not ignore the existence of a large section, or large sections, of the peoples in India who do not desire a rapid extension of Western methods. But the point I wish to make is that no political concessions will act as a remedy for discontent unless they are administered with sympathy—real sympathy, human sympathy, the sympathy which springs from knowledge of the feelings of the aggrieved and from recognition of their human rights, not the professional sympathy of politicians who administer a legislative remedy according to recognised rule and practice, just as a physician administers a drug. That sympathy must show itself in acts which cost effort and sacrifice, not in such as can be made as easily as a charitable dole. There is, in my opinion, no way in which that sympathy can better be shown than in the redress of the grievances under which British Indians suffer in the Colonies, and particularly in South Africa. Here the effort is to persuade our Colonial brethen to see our point of view—the point of view which we must necessarily hold as the paramount power in the Empire, the nation on which devolves, takes the hegemony of the Empire and which has to control the unity and harmony of the Empire as a whole. The sacrifice is to run the risk of incurring the displeasure of our colonial brethen. But if there should be displeasure at any representations which we might make, I do not for a moment believe it would be lasting. I believe that the colonists would respect us for courageously and freely expressing our views on a subject like this, and insisting that they should be considered and met with due respect by all the other nations of the Empire.

Let me make it clear that I am not in the slightest degree imputing blame to His Majesty's present Government. It is, of course, obvious that they found the present state of affairs existing when they came into office; but what I do say is that His Majesty's Government will be held blameworthy by a large proportion of the citizens of the Empire if they do not make a big effort to redress those grievances and to succeed where their predecessors unfortunately failed. I noticed with satisfaction and pleasure that in the new Constitution for the Transvaal they reserve powers which were obviously intended for this purpose. I hope and trust they will not hesitate to use that power.

No man, my Lords, has ever had a better chance of remedying this evil than the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and I venture to think that no man has ever had a clearer duty than he has in this matter. The noble Earl has been Viceroy of India and he is now Secretary of State for the Colonies. He has come from India with a knowledge of the feelings and the wishes of Indians to the Colonists, with whose wishes and sentiments he is now equally acquainted. He seems to me, therefore, to be a mediator, one might almost say providentially appointed, to effect reconciliation between our fellow-citizens in India and our brethren in the Colonies. The sympathies of the noble Earl in this matter are no secret. I hope he will have the courage to act up to his opinions, and that good fortune will aid his endeavours. The noble Earl will, I daresay, tell me that this subject has not been placed on the Agenda for the Imperial Conference, but I cannot see why, when the Premiers of the Colonies are assembled, he should not say to them that this is a question which has not been placed on the programme for the Conference, because that programme has been drawn up mainly with reference to their own wishes, but it is a question of the highest importance to the Government of this country who have to regulate the relations between the different parts of the Empire, and to preserve the unity and harmony of the whole; and, therefore, he must ask them to be so good as to listen to the views held by His Majesty's Government on behalf of this country, and, if they will, to express their own. I do not see how it can be doubted that the representatives of the Colonies would most readily and willingly lend themselves to such an appeal.

An Agenda is not a sacrosanct document; it is not a portion of Holy Writ which cannot be altered; it is not even an Education Bill: and I personally for the life of me cannot see why even at the last moment some alteration in deference to the views of the paramount power in the Empire should not be made in the settled programme of the Conference. The noble Earl knows, I am sure, that it is not in any factious spirit that I ask this question. I think he will admit that I have some right to speak on behalf of the people of India, and some right to expect, on their behalf, a clear and unequivocal answer. I feel confident that he will give me something rather better than a merely official reply. An official reply is, of necessity, guarded and evasive. Officials who frame these replies, and I have had some experience in the matter, have not the right to say "Yes" or "No," or to say that this or that will or will not be done. But it is the highest privilege, as well as the duty, of the statesman to say "Yes" or "No" when great issues are concerned, and nothing will persuade me that this present issue is not one of the most important and the highest in the whole field of Imperial statesmanship. I therefore hope and trust that the noble Earl will be able to give a clear "Yes" in answer to my Question.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, the noble Lord has only done me justice in saying that this question appeals to me from my previous connection with the Empire of India. I became acquainted then with the sober, peaceful, and industrious character of the Indian people, and my experience also gave me an opportunity of knowing their patience under the stress of suffering, and their readiness to welcome management, if it be only sympathetic. I might go further and say that I am well aware that there must be somewhere in the records of the Departments here despatches in my name drawing attention to the very point with which the noble Lord has dealt. It was my duty to expostulate with regard to the treatment of British Indians in South Africa during my Viceroyalty. I have nothing to withdraw from the opinions which I then expressed. It appears to me that British Indians, if they are to be admitted into the Colonies, ought to be well treated there; and it would be desirable that those native gentlemen whom we have known in India, and with whom we have associated and sat on councils in India, should be able, if possible, to take a welcome share in the life of the countries to which they go.

But, my Lords, of course we have to consider the opinions of the self-governing Colonies in regard to this matter. The noble Lord said in the course of his speech that the particular part of the world to which he sought to draw attention was South Africa, and he spoke specially of the Transvaal and of the Boer rule. I would remind him that the law that existed there was criticised by the noble Marquess at the time of the war; and when the war ceased, it was within the option of the Government then established, and of Lord Milner in particular, to alter that law. It was not altered. I am not going now to argue whether that was right or wrong; but it does not lie with the noble Lord to make any imputation against the Government which I represent in this matter further than can be made against the Government that preceded us and the High Commissioner in charge at the time.

*LORD AMPTHILL: I most specially guarded myself against doing so.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: I quite admit that. I would just say a word about a proposal for an alteration of the Ordinance which came up not long ago. There was such a proposal, and it was represented by a deputation of British Indians that it would aggravate their position. It is quite true that the effect of what has taken place since British rule was established in the Transvaal has been to make more effective the provisions which existed, but which were not so strictly enforced during the Boer rule. As to the new Ordinance, I felt it my duty to object to certain details, and these could not be brought into operation before the institution of responsible government. Therefore from that fact alone the Ordinance was bound to fail. But I acted in this way with great regret, because I believe that it was the desire of the High Commissioner, in bringing forward this Ordinance, to do all that he could to amend rather than to harden the position of the British Indians in the Transvaal. I am aware that they did not take that view themselves, and I think that in some ways their apprehensions were exaggerated. But I must testify that the sole desire of Lord Selborne was to make the arrangement as fair as he possibly could, holding the line between the view of the Indians and of the Colonists.

The noble Lord said that he thought I took the view that this Question was inopportune. I do think so. There are two words in the Question which are remarkable. The noble Lord mentioned one—the word "insist." There is another. In his notice he speaks of an "Imperial Conference." That must be an intelligent anticipation of the future, because at present we are dealing with the Colonial Conference. With regard to the word "insist," I think that that gives an impression which is rather hostile to any Conference at all. You "invite" people to confer with you; you do not "insist." What settlement can we have if not by agreement, and how is it to be brought about?

I am not quite sure whether the noble Lord defined what he wanted us to do; but I gather from the way in which he spoke of my duty in laying down the view of the Government that he would go as far as to say that if provisions of this kind were to find their way into a law passed by a Colonial Government in future it would be the duty of the Secretary of State to advise His Majesty to refuse assent to it. That course would be a very serious matter indeed, and I point out to the noble Lord that I think it is contrary to the precedent of what has taken place on former occasions. This subject was not mentioned at all in the Conference of 1902, but it was mentioned in the Conference of 1897. Mr. Chamberlain then made an eloquent reference to the position of British Indians, but he also stated that—

> "His Majesty's Government thoroughly appreciate the objects and needs of the Colonies in dealing with this matter. We quite sympathise with the determination of the white inhabitants of Colonies which are in comparatively close proximity to millions of Asiatics that there should not be an influx of people alien to their civilsation and customs, whose introduction would interfere with the legitimate rights of the existing labouring population"

The right hon. Gentleman went on to describe the arrangements made in Natal, and added—

> "I hope to be able to arrange a form of words which will avoid hurting the feelings of any of His Majesty's subjects while at the same time amply protecting the Colonies from the invasion of any class to whom they could justly object."

But it is not only in the Conference that this expression of opinion as regards just consideration for the Colonies has been made. I find that Lord Curzon in March, 1905, speaking in the Viceroy's Council at Calcutta, stated that—

> "Colonies possessing, or likely before long to possess, rights of self-government cannot be dictated to in such matters; and the feeling that exists among them is undoubtedly very strong that it seems to be our duty to do nothing to inflame that feeling, but to lose no opportunity of pleading the cause of those whose natural protectors we are."

That is the position which I think His Majesty's Government ought also to assume.

The noble Lord is not satisfied with the reply which was given by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for India in another place. He pointed out that the reason why other subjects took first place in their consideration was that they were brought forward by a majority of the Governments taking part in the Conference. I think that is a good reason. But I do not think the noble Lord need assume from this fact that, should opportunity offer and time permit, the matter will not be considered. I hope that among the engagements of the Conference there may be an opportunity for it to give attention to some subjects which do not appear in the formal agenda list. At any rate your Lordships will remember that not all the Colonies are equally interested in this question, and no doubt there will be subordinate Conferences—if I may use the expression—where, in some form or other, I hope there will be opportunity provided to discuss with our friends from across the seas the matter to which attention has been drawn by the noble Lord.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, my noble friend expressed a hope that he would not receive a too official Answer to his Question, and he told your Lordships that the answers to such questions as his were generally guarded and evasive. I do not think the Answer to which we have listened can properly be described as an evasive Answer, because the noble Earl dealt very very fully and fairly with the question. That the noble Earl should reply in guarded terms is not in the least surprising, for the question we are discussing is certainly one of the most difficult and delicate which any Government has lately had to consider. We have to try and steer a course between two conflicting currents of public opinion. On the one hand, there is a strong feeling—in which I share—of concern that the Indian subjects of His Majesty should receive in one of our Colonies treatment which can be described as humiliating to them, or as tending to deprive them of the advantages and rights they had been led to expect would be theirs when they settled in that part of our dominions. My noble friend was good enough to quote a speech I delivered in 1899, and in which I devoted some attention to this subject. I feel as strongly about it now as I did then, and I am not at all surprised that these feelings should be entertained by my noble friend.

On the other hand, we have to take into consideration the fact, and it is an undoubted fact, that throughout these Colonies there is a very strong feeling that the indiscriminate influx of Asiatics or of any persons of alien race should not be permitted. How strong that feeling is must be apparent to anyone who will take the trouble to read the Papers which have been laid on the Table of the House. Let anyone look at such a document as Sir Arthur Lawley's despatch, in which he enlarges with some minuteness on that aspect of the case.

Now, the action of the late Government was animated by a desire to hold the balance as evenly as possible between these two sets of conflicting considerations; and I think that anyone who will take the trouble to read the long and closely-reasoned despatch of Mr. Lyttelton contained in the Blue-book of 1904 will think that we were at any rate not unsuccessful in endeavouring to give due weight to each side of the argument. In that despatch there is laid down the necessity of distinguishing between the treatment accorded to Asiatics entering these self-governing Colonies for the first time, and those Asiatics who have acquired a domicile in the Colonies and have settled down and developed their business. Then there is the further distinction which is to be made between that part of the resident Asiatic population which may be described as a superior class of people, educated men who have business premises, and the more numerous class who herd together in the bazaars, and for whose sake, if not for the sake of the community which surround them, it is necessary to take special precautions to prevent them from being a danger to the other residents in the Colony. All these aspects of the case are fully dealt with in the despatch; and it is to that document I would refer anyone who desires to know what the policy of the late Government was.

My noble friend makes a specific suggestion that this question should be referred to the Colonial Conference. That is a suggestion which I think must be left to be acted upon or not to be acted upon as His Majesty's Government may upon reflection consider best. I admit that there are some reasons which make me doubt whether it would be, on the whole, desirable that this question should be officially laid before the Conference. I understand that no representative of India is likely to take part in these proceedings.

THE EARL OF ELGIN: India will be represented by the Secretary of State.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: But there is no one who comes to this country with special and intimate knowledge of the particular class of immigrants we are discussing this evening. I heard with satisfaction the noble Earl's statement that, although the question might not be officially laid before the Conference, he did not think it impossible that advantage would be taken of the presence of the Colonial representatives in order to discuss it at what I think he called subsidiary Conferences. I think that it is a more hopeful course than official reference to the full Conference.

The matter is a very delicate one; feeling runs high about it; and if we are to overcome the deep-rooted antipathies and objections which exist in the public mind in the Colonies, it can only be done by endeavouring in the most temperate and tactful way to convince them that while there is a Colonial side to the question, and while we fully recognise how much weight should be given to the Colonial aspect of the case, there is also an Imperial side, a side which concerns our great Indian Empire, where, as my noble friend truly said, these questions are watched with increasing interest. It is therefore not too much to hope that the Colonial statesmen may be found ready to take into account not only the arguments which appeal most directly to them, but also those other and more far-reaching arguments by which other parts of the Empire are affected. We may, I feel sure, gather from the statement that has been made this evening that the matter will not be lost sight of, and that all that can possibly be done, in whatever way the Government think most effective, will be done to ensure proper treatment for these Indian subjects of the King.

*LORD REAY: My Lords, I may perhaps be allowed, as I take the deepest interest in the question which my noble friend opposite has submitted this evening, to state that I am quite satisfied with the Answer given by my noble friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He could not be expected to give more than an assurance that the matter would not be lost sight of. I agree with what has fallen from the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition, that the means which should be used to arrive at a just settlement in this most delicate question must be left to the judgment of His Majesty's Government. The utmost tact will be required in order to avoid that the discussion of the subject, instead of leading to conciliation, should lead to further estrangement. I would especially press the point to which the noble Marquess has called attention, that especial consideration should be given to the legal *status* of those who are resident in the Colonies whose character is well known in the Colonies. And in any ordinance which may be enacted a distinction should be drawn between those who from long residence have acquired a domicile, and others who as immigrants might affect the labour market, and in connection with whom more difficult points may arise. For the first time at this Conference India will be represented, and I wish to express my great satisfaction that His Majesty's Government have acceded to this legitimate demand of India. It is quite obvious that the representative of India will be aware of the strong feeling which exists throughout India with regard to this question, and that he will be able, at all events in any subordinate Conference which may be summoned, to plead the cause of India. No doubt this is a matter of the utmost importance to the friendly relations which ought to exist between the various parts of the Empire, and I agree with the noble Marquess that it requires very delicate handling on account of the antipathies and prejudices which unfortunately are so deep-rooted in some of the Colonies. I feel confident that His Majesty's Government will not lose sight of this question and that the presence of the Colonial premiers will be utilised in order that some solution may be found of this question worthy of the great traditions of the Empire.

*LORD AMPTHILL: While I am grateful to the noble Earl for the courtesy evidenced in his full consideration of my Question, I cannot refrain from saying that I am disappointed. I had hoped——

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am afraid that, as we have been discussing order in debate, I must draw the attention of the noble Lord to the fact that he has merely asked a Question and not made a Motion, and that he is therefore not entitled to a reply.

*LORD AMPTHILL: I beg your Lordships' pardon. I had no idea I was out of order.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD (CHARGES, ETC.) BILL.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Commons' Message considered (according to order): Moved, That this House do concur in the following resolution communicated by the Commons, viz., "That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons" (The Earl Carrington); agreed to; and a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 19*th March*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 63 has been complied with, viz. :—London United Tramways Bill; London Electric Supply Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. Read a second time and committed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

"That, in the case of the South Wales Mineral Railway Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, on the condition that Clauses 26 to 35, inclusive, are struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

"That, in the case of the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Burnley Corporation, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill, Petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the Petition of the 'Westminster City Council,' against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought not to be dispensed with."

First Four Resolutions agreed to.

Report to lie upon the Table.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.—(*Mr. Deputy Chairman.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands for and completion of tramways and other works authorised by the West Riding Tramways Act, 1904." [West Riding Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Manchester Ship Canal Company to acquire lands and to confer upon that Company further powers in relation to the supply of water in their canal; and for other purposes." [Manchester Ship Canal [Various Powers) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make provision with reference to the substitution of a memorandum and articles of association for the existing constitution and regulations of the Royal Insurance Company, and for extending its objects; and to repeal, in part, The Royal Insurance Company's Act, 1891; and for other purposes." [Royal Insurance Company Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Newquay and District Water Company; to extend their limits for the supply of water; to authorise the construction of works and the raising of money; and for other purposes." [Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the West Yorkshire Tramways Company, for widening and altering roads, and acquiring lands and for other purposes." [West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Company, for widening and altering roads, and acquiring lands; and for other purposes." [Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill,—That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution, "That it is expedient that the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons."

West Riding Tramways Bill [Lords]; Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [Lords]; Royal Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords], read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Aberaman; Bagillt; Bedford; Blaennant; Bow Hill; Bretby; British Rhondda; Burnbank; Cadley Hill; Carluke; Cossall; Dechmont; Featherstone Main; Gilbertfield; Gresley; Gwendraeth; Halls; Harthill and Benhar; Heanor; Highley and Kintet; Hodroyd; Kelty; Kinglassie; Kippax; Llanerch; Mirfield; Nadine and Company; New Cwmmawr; Oakwell; Point of Ayr; Pontheury; Ripley; Rosebank; Tipton; and, West Wemyss Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRADE).

Petition from Abergavenny, for suppression; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against: From Campbeltown; and, Duthil and Rothiemurchus; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

HOME WORK REGULATION BILL.

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS.

Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division for Scotland for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Teaching of English in Scottish Primary Schools [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ST. LUCIA.

Copy presented, of Amended Prison Rule and Diet Scales [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (NO. 8, 1907).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the Boundary between the Gold Coast and the French Soudan, 19th July, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Copy presented, of Memorandum relative thereto [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Public Records, High Court of Justice (King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer), Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the late Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Land Commission Department Clerical Staff.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can arrange, in view of the increase in the junior clerical staff employed in the Land Commission Department, that the number of first and second clerks be correspondingly increased, with the object of establishing a proper system of direction and supervision in the offices.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Land Commissioners inform me that they are fully alive to the desirability of providing for the proper supervision of their junior clerical staff, and have taken the measures which they consider necessary to that end. The existing vacancy in the staff of first-class clerks is being filled up, but the creation of further first and second-class clerkships is not contemplated.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of first, second, third, and other clerks assigned to the Land Commission in the year 1891, when it was made a permanent Government Department; whether he can state the number and *status* of the clerks now employed in these offices; and how many appointments have been made to this Department since the passing of the Land Act in 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The clerical staff of the Irish Land Commission immediately following the organisation of the Department on a permanent basis, in January, 1892, was as follows—

First-class clerks - - - -	14
Second-class clerks - - - -	23
Third-class clerks - - - -	36
Registered writers and temporary clerks, etc. (which were increased in numbers between 1892 and the passing of the Act of 1903) -	48
	121

At present the strength of the clerical staff of the Department, including the Estates Commissioners, is as follows—

First-class clerks (including one vacancy) - - - - -	11
The reduction from fourteen was caused by the transfer of one to the Congested Districts Board, and transfer of two others to staff posts in the office of a different designation from that of first-class clerk.	
Second-class clerks - - - -	23
Third-class clerks - - - -	30
Vacancies in this class are not filled. When such arise the strength of the clerical staff is maintained by the assignment of Second Division clerks.	
Chief clerk to Estates Commissioners, and other clerks, mostly of senior grade - - - -	8
Clerks for legal purposes - - -	8
Second Division clerks, including six vice third-class clerks - -	60
Assistant clerks - - - -	102
Record attendants - - - -	6
Temporary clerks and boy clerks, etc.	124
	372

The increase in the clerical staff since 1st November, 1903, is as follows—

Chief clerk to Estates Commissioners, and other clerks, mostly of senior grade - - - - - -	7
Clerks for legal purposes - - - -	8
Second Division clerks, including six vice third-class clerks - -	60
Assistant clerks - - - - -	78
Record attendants - - - - -	4
Temporary clerks and boy clerks, etc.	50
	207

Bankruptcy Law.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask Mr. Attorney General whether he has taken note of the case of *In re* Button *ex parte* Hairside, whereby it was decided that the owner of goods who leaves them in possession of a bailee who becomes bankrupt, so that they pass to the trustee in bankruptcy under the reputed ownership provisions of the Bankruptcy Law, has no right of proof in the bankruptcy for the value of the goods; and whether he will introduce legislation for the relief of innocent persons thus penalised, and put them in a position not inferior to that of a person who has sold goods to a bankrupt but has not received payment.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) The point is of importance, and should be considered in any alteration of the Bankruptcy Law. It would be well to bring the subject to the notice of the Lord Chancellor and the President of the Board of Trade.

Refusals of Trading Licenses to British Indian Shopkeepers in Natal.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the number of refusals for renewal of trading licences to British-Indian shopkeepers in Natal; and whether he proposes to take any action on their behalf.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The subject is at present under discussion with the Government of Natal. I will not fail to take any opportunity of supporting the legitimate claims of Indian traders.

The Indian Budget.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for India when he proposes to take the Indian Budget.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Indian financial statement will be presented at Calcutta on the 20th instant, and discussed a week later. It will be presented to Parliament as soon as it is received in this country, *i.e.*, early in May, and the usual discussion will take place as soon thereafter as the state of public business permits; I hope at an early date.

Delay in Installation of Private Telephones.

MR. CARR-GOMM (Southwark, Rotherhithe): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware of the inconvenience caused to numbers of persons who, having signed the form of application for a private telephone apparatus, have had to wait a considerable time, in some cases as much as six weeks, before being able to use the telephone; whether he has considered the necessity of largely augumenting the staff of this department in view of the increasing number of subscribers' applications to be complied with; and, if so, what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) So long a period as six weeks would not be occupied in the completion of a Post Office telephone exchange line, unless there were some exceptional difficulty in construction or in obtaining wayleaves from local authorities. The completion of a line provided recently for the hon. Member was unfortunately delayed owing to the necessity for laying a new main cable on a section of the route between his house and the exchange, and some further delay occurred owing to the Christmas holidays. The circumstances were, however, exceptional. The Post Office engineering staff is receiving large additions to provide for the increasing telephone work.

Purchase of Miss Griffith's Grazing Lands.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say what action the Estates Commissioners have taken to purchase Miss Griffith's grazing lands, containing 400 acres, in the parish of Corbally, near Roscrea, with the view to divide them up into small holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have communicated with Miss Cecilia Griffith with regard to the sale of her untenanted land, but have not yet received any reply.

Claims of Evicted Tenants on Estate of Mr. Rotheram, of County Meath.

Mr. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mr. Rotheram, of Crossdrum, Oldcastle, county Meath, has offered a considerable area of untenanted land for sale to the Estates Commissioners; and if, in the event of their becoming purchasers, they will in its distribution have regard to the prior claims of the descendants of people who were evicted from those lands some years ago, and after satisfying their requirements, they will next consider the claims of labourers resident in the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are negotiating for the purchase of certain tenanted and untenanted land from Mr. Rotheram. If the Commissioners should acquire the property they will, in disposing of the untenanted land, have due regard to the claims of all persons who may be eligible under the Act to receive such land.

Macedonian Budget.

Mr. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will request the British financial delegate in Macedonia to furnish figures, as soon as possible, showing the amount of revenue collected in Macedonia and available for the Macedonian budget for the year ending 13th of the present month, also figures showing the amount expended on civil and military expenditure respectively, the total deficit on the budget, and the extent to which it has been made good by the Turkish Government.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The British delegate on the Financial Commission has already been requested to do this.

Dr. Haffkine and his Prophylactic against Plague.

Sir W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether Dr. Haffkine now holds any appointment under the Indian Government; whether the use of Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic against plague is now encouraged by the Government; and whether any further information has been obtained in regard to nineteen fatal cases of tetanus at Mulkowal consequent upon the use of Dr Haffkine's prophylactic.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Dr. Haffkine is in the permanent service of the Government of India, and is at present on leave in this country. He holds no appointment in India, but the Government of India have offered him employment in that country on research work, at a salary equal to that of which he was in receipt when he left India. Inoculation with Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic continues to be one of the precautions which are recommended by Government to the general population against outbreaks of plague, and facilities are provided for persons who wish to be inoculated. Papers containing the results of the inquiry into the origin of the accidental deaths from tetanus poisoning in the Punjab, have recently been published by the Government of India. I have no objection to lay them if they are moved for.

Telephone Facilities for Mullingar.

Mr. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will consider favourably the claim of Mullingar to be included among the towns in Ireland to which he proposes to give telephone facilities.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am making inquiry as to the conditions on which an extension of the Post Office trunk telephone system to Mullingar can be offered, and will inform the hon.

Member of the result. I understand that an exchange was established in Mullingar by the National Telephone Company some time ago, but that it had to be closed on account of insufficient local support.

Poor Law Expenditure.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is now in a position to state the total amount of Poor Law expenditure out of loans for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Returns as to Poor Law expenditure relate to the financial year ending in March, and not to the calendar year. The amount of the expenditure out of the loans for the financial year ended March, 1906, cannot at present be stated.

Accounts of Metropolitan Boroughs.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): To ask the President of the Local Government Board when it is contemplated to issue regulations, together with an Order for Accounts, with respect to the accounts of the councils of metropolitan boroughs established under the provisions of The London Government Act, 1899.

(*Answered by John Burns.*) The Local Government Board have prescribed the forms of books and accounts to be used by the Metropolitan Borough Councils in connection with the collection of the rates, and also the form of financial statement to be submitted to the district auditor. They do not propose to issue regulations respecting the accounts of these councils generally whilst the subject of the accounts of local authorities is under the consideration of the Departmental Committee now sitting.

Uganda Railway Accounts.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the profit upon the working of the Uganda Railway is a true profit, or the difference between actual working charges and gross receipts; whether £5,398,733 is the total cost of the line, including expenditure in Europe and in Africa and administration charges; whether the cost per mile, with all such expenses added amount to £9,426; and whether that sum is adopted by the Government as the normal cost of construction of railways in Africa.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) When speaking of the profit upon the working of the Uganda Railway, I was referring, as the hon. Member suggests, to the difference between actual working charges and gross receipts. The total capital sum expended to the 31st March, 1906, namely, £5,398,733, includes all expenditure in Europe and Africa and also in Asia. The total amount issued from the Consolidated Fund for the construction of the railway is £5,502,592, and, as the length of the line is 584 miles, the cost per mile amounts to £9,422. It is not possible to adopt this or any other sum as the normal cost of construction of railways in Africa, as the cost is determined by such varying factors as the character of the line, the nature of the country and its accessibility, the amount of local labour available, and other conditions.

New Year's Day Holiday in Board of Works Office, Dublin.

MR. DELANY (Queens Co., Ossory): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will ask the Board of Works, Dublin, to explain why New Year's Day was given as an office holiday every year prior to 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have nothing to add to the replies which were given to the hon. Member on this subject on the 14th and 18th December last.†

Resident Magistrate for Newtowncashel.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that complaint is made that the populous parish of Newtowncashel, county Longford, is without the services of a magistrate residing in the locality for the signing of summonses and other magisterial functions; and will he direct the attention of the Lord Chancellor to this want and request him to appoint the local county councillor for the division, Mr. John Hanley, to that office.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 832, 1258.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) I have referred this question to the Lord Chancellor, who informs me that no complaint has been made as to the want of magistrates in this districts, but that he will have inquiry made into the matter.

Introduction of the Metric System.

MR. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the importance of the question whether the enactment of a measure compelling the adoption of a metric system of weights and measures would prove to be of great economic advantage to the public, and in consideration that the subject will probably be discussed in Parliament in the near future, he will consider whether it is advisable, as a first step towards a solution of the question, to institute an inquiry as to the practicability and advisability of introducing such system in all dealings with and undertakings of all Government factories and departments.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Board of Trade made, some years ago, inquiries on the point raised by my hon. friend and were advised that it would be undesirable that such a departure from general trade practice in this country should be made by Government Departments and factories. They see no reason to alter this conclusion.

Rocket Apparatus on British Ships.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Dutch Government has brought forward a measure making the carrying of life-saving rocket apparatus compulsory on all vessels of over 200 tons; whether he will take into consideration the advisability of proposing a similar enactment for British shipping; and whether the Schermuly's rocket salvage apparatus has come under the notice of his Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Board of Trade have no official information with regard to the Dutch measure to which my hon. friend refers, but the question of the desirability of British ships being provided with apparatus for communicating with the shore is being considered. The Answer to the last paragraph in the Question is in the affirmative.

Overcrowding on the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the overcrowding in the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway at the busy times of morning and evening and at 1 p.m. on Saturdays; and whether, seeing that it is largely due to the fact that the company runs trains of three coaches only, he will take any steps to induce the company to revert to four-coach trains during the busy times of the day.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Board of Trade are informed by the railway company that it has been decided to return to a service of six and four-car trains commencing on Thursday next, the 21st instant, instead of the three-car service now running.

Ennis State Inebriates Reformatory.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many men and how many women have been committed to the Ennis State Inebriates Reformatory since its establishment; and if he can estimate how many of these have been considered cured of drunkenness on discharge; and whether he will direct the special attention of the judicial authorities in Ireland to the advisability of sending persons convicted of offences arising from drunkenness to this reformatory instead of to prison.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Since the establishment of Ennis State Inebriate Reformatory in 1899, thirty-eight men and sixty-nine women have been committed, of whom twenty-nine men and fifty-two women have been discharged. Each case is watched and reported on periodically after discharge. Of the twenty-nine men discharged, sixteen are reported cured, three are dead, and ten have relapsed. Of the fifty-two women discharged, twenty-one are reported cured, five are dead, two are in lunatic asylums, and twenty-four have relapsed. The question of sending persons to the Inebriate Reformatory is one entirely for the judicial authorities themselves. I will, however, bring the hon. Member's suggestion to the notice of the Lord Chancellor.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Joseph Mulooly.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether applications have been received from Joseph Mulooly, senior, and Joseph Mulooly, junior, for reinstatement in their farms in the parish of Rathcline, county Longford; whether the inspector has yet visited these men and reported upon their case; whether he is aware that there are several large farms in this neighbourhood which could be easily acquired for the purpose of providing equivalent holdings for these men; and will he now direct that steps be taken towards this end.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Joseph Mulooly, but whether the applicant is senior or junior does not appear. The application has been referred to an inspector for investigation.

Sale of Farm on Duc de Stacpool's Estate—Compensation to previous Tenant.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether before sanctioning the sale to Pat Mulligan of a farm on the Duc de Stacpool's estate at Sonnagh, county Longford, the Estates Commissioners will direct an inquiry into the circumstances under which two half-witted girls named Lennon, whose father owned this farm and who lost it for want of proper sense to manage the same, are now living, with a view to their receiving some small compensation for the interest they lost, not through their own fault but through their sad mental misfortunes.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have received no application from the persons mentioned, but will inquire into their case when the estate in question is being dealt with.

Eviction Notices in the Kells Rural District.

Mr. PATRICK WHITE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Kells Rural District Council has served notice to quit upon a large number of labourers holding cottages from that body; what is the reason assigned for the shower of notices to quit; and will he supply the hon. Member for North Meath with a copy of the existing agreements between the Naran, Trim, Oldcastle, and Kells District Councils and their respective tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board are aware that on the 16th instant the Kells Rural District Council ordered notices to quit to be served on six tenants of labourers cottages, in five instances for non-payment of rent, and in the remaining case for dilapidations. The Board are not in possession of the agreements referred to in the Question.

Status of Bandmasters in Volunteer Regiments.

Mr. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether bandmasters in Volunteer regiments have no assured military *status*; whether bandmasters in the Regular Army rank as warrant officers; and whether, if the Answer in both cases or in the former case be in the affirmative, steps will be taken in the Army Bill or otherwise to improve the condition of the former functionaries.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply to the first and second second parts of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the last part of the Question, I doubt whether it would be practicable to adopt my hon. friend's suggestion. The mode of life and occupation of a bandmaster in a Volunteer regiment is so different under existing circumstances from that of the bandmaster in a regular regiment, who gives his whole time to the work of that regiment, that it is not easy to see how the *status* could be assimilated.

Army Accounts Department.

Mr. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he proposes to make any changes in the constitution of the Army Accounts Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No change has been determined on.

Battery Sergeant-Majors and Quarter-master-Sergeants affected by Army Order of 11th March.

MR. CLAVELL SALTER: To ask the Secretary of State for War how many battery sergeant-majors and battery quarter-master-sergeants will be affected by the Army Order, issued on the 11th March, which provides that continuance in the service, beyond twenty-one years, of non-commissioned officers on the Home establishment is to cease for the present; and whether he will consider the advisability of allowing exceptions where commanding officers apply to retain such non-commissioned officers in the interests of the service.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) As regards the first part of the Question no figures are available in the War Office, and it would take some time to obtain the information. As regards the last part of the Question the Army Council is prepared to consider any exceptional cases, either in the interests of the service or of the non-commissioned officer.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Reserve of Guns and Ammunition for the Navy.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether in view of the fact that the information given under Vote 9 has been curtailed, while the Vote for guns has been reduced from £915,000 last year to £690,000 this year, and the Vote for projectiles, ammunition, torpedoes, and gun-cotton is now £1,182,000, whereas in 1901–2 it was £2,405,300, he can give the House an assurance that the reserve of heavy guns in the case of the "Dreadnought" and "Invincible" classes will not be reduced below the figure officially given as one heavy gun for every four mounted on board, and that stocks of projectiles, ammunition, torpedoes, and gun-cotton are not being reduced below what has been customary in former years.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): As has been previously stated, it is considered undesirable in the public interest that statements should be made regarding the reserve of guns and other ordnance stores, but the assurance asked for can be given.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Does the reduced quantity of ammunition also mean a reduced allowance for practice?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I would rather not answer that Question without notice.

MR. BELLAIRS: Can the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance that the reserve will not fall below that which formerly existed?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I have given the assurance asked for by the hon. Member, and I cannot do more.

Simonstown Warders—Adulterated Canvas.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the warders on the staff of the naval prison at Simonstown are employed on extra duties with extra pay for an average of 160 days per annum; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made as to whether this prison is overstaffed. I beg also to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that adulterated canvas has recently been supplied to the Admiralty by a private firm; whether the Admiralty have made any claim upon this firm in consequence; and whether this firm is still supplying canvas to the Admiralty.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: As both these Questions are now under review by the Public Accounts Committee, it would be contrary to the usual practice for me to make any statement.

H.M.S. "Barfleur."

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many captains have successively been appointed to the battleship H.M.S. "Barfleur," and how many crews have successively manned her in the last twenty-four months.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The number of captains is six; and number of crews five.

Redistribution of Battle Ships.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many of the thirty-two battleships which have been in full commission and exercised in their respective fleets under the old distribution will shift their fleets under the new distribution; how many will change their crews; and whether all the Admirals commanding the four fleets will be new to their commands.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Eighteen of the battleships will shift their fleets, and eight will change their crews. The Answer to the last part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Pensioner Bradley, Royal Garrison Artillery.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that pensioner Company Quartermaster Sergeant G. Bradley, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, was passed over for promotion by a junior on the 2nd April, 1905, for the rank of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant through an error, for which he was in no way responsible, that an appeal has been made to the War Office on two occasions, and although it is admitted that the pensioner has been unjustly treated no redress has been given, that a loss of rank and pay amounting to about £14 has resulted up to date of discharge, which was carried out on the 28th February of the present year; and whether he can see his way clear to see that justice is done to the person in question.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): It is regretted that this man was inadvertently passed over for promotion. I am at present considering whether anything can be done.

Comilla Riots.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to a riot that occurred at Comilla, in the new province, between a Mahomedan procession, escorting the Nawab of Dacca to a pro-partition meeting; whether the Mahomedans assaulted the Hindus indiscriminately and looted Hindu shops, many Hindus being injured; whether the Nawab, in justification of the riot, stated that a stone was thrown at him a fortnight previous at the Comilla District Conference; and, if so, what steps have been or will be taken to bring the Nawab and the other offenders to justice, and to prevent pro-partition demonstrations being held in those quarters where the Hindus live and carry on their business.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I have received a Report of the disturbance referred to. The Local Government appear to have taken steps to prevent illegal action or rioting, whether by Hindus or Mahomedans, at Comilla.

Bengal Excise Bill.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the Report of the Indian Excise Committee, and the consequent action to be taken by the Government of India thereon, the Bengal Excise Bill, which was referred to a Select Committee of the Bengal Legislative Council in 1905, will be reintroduced.

MR. MORLEY: I have ascertained that the Government of India have still to consider the Bill in connection with the Excise Committee's Report, and that it will not be proceeded with in the current session.

China and the Opium Traffic.

MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can now state how the matter of the opium traffic from India now stands, especially having regard to the Resolution of the House passed unanimously on the 30th May, 1906.

MR. MORLEY: My right hon. friend is aware that the Chinese Government towards the end of last year approached His Majesty's Government on the subject of restricting the import of foreign opium into China, and put forward certain proposals as a basis for discussion. The views of the Government of India on these proposals have just reached me and are under my consideration in Council. The discussion which the Chinese Government have invited will be entered upon with all despatch and will, I hope, result in a satisfactory arrangement at no distant date.

Indian National Congress Resolutions.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received a copy of the resolutions passed at the Twenty-Second Indian National Congress, held in Calcutta during December, 1906; and, if so, whether he will lay the resolutions on the Table of the House.

MR. MORLEY: The Answer is in the negative.

SIR H. COTTON: Has not the right hon. Gentleman received a copy of the resolutions of the Government of India?

MR. MORLEY: I am not at all sure that it comes within the province of the Government of India to forward them.

Trinidad Customs Tariff.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is yet in a position to give the names of the Commission appointed by the Trinidad Government to revise the local customs tariff; whether a representative of the working class has been appointed a member of the Commission; and whether the proceedings of the Commission will be made public.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I am not as yet in a position to give the hon. Member any further information on this subject.

MR. SUMMERBELL: When may the information be expected?

MR. CHURCHILL: I will make further inquiries and inform the hon. Member.

MR. SUMMERBELL: Will the hon. Gentleman do so by telegraph?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, if it is necessary to do so.

New Hebrides Convention Expenditure.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E. R., Holderness): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what sums have been expended during the present financial year on legal advice, travelling, printing, telegraphing, and other general expenses connected with the New Hebrides Convention.

MR. CHURCHILL: No special expenditure arising out of the New Hebrides Convention has been or will be incurred during the present financial year.

Treatment of British Indians in Natal.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to the effect that resolutions have been passed at a large meeting of Indians in Durban, protesting against the manner in which the Dealers' Licences Act was being enforced in various parts of Natal, and asking the Imperial Government to safeguard the right of British-Indian ratepayers to vote at the municipal elections; and, if so, what action he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. CHURCHILL: A copy of a cable to the effect stated has been received from the South African British Indian Committee. The Secretary of State, as already stated, is in communication with the Natal Government on the subject.

The Hausa Lines, West Africa.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the ex-soldiers of the Hausa, Lagos, West Africa, have now been evicted from their location; and whether the compensation promised has been paid, and, if not, when it is proposed to pay it.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is understood that the removal of the inhabitants of the quarter known as the "Hausa Lines" has been carried out. The compensation was payable one month after the publication of the awards in the *Gazette*; and, as this publication was made on the 9th of

January, it may be assumed that the compensation has been paid. Inquiry is being made by telegraph as to the amounts of compensation which have been paid and the persons compensated.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: When is the reply likely to be available?

MR. CHURCHILL: I should think very soon.

Shanghai Outrages.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any information from the British Consul General at Shanghai with regard to the murder of Police-constable Morrow, who was shot dead by a gang of armed robbers on the outskirts of the town; and whether he will cause representations to be made to the Chinese Government with a view to preventing a recurrence of such an outrage.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): We have no information on the subject. But inquiries have been made by telegraph of His Majesty's Minister at Peking, and the result will be communicated to the hon. Member.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Will further inquiries be telegraphed?

SIR EDWARD GREY: They have been telegraphed, but the Answer may come by post, as the question is a very complicated one.

Turco-Persian Frontier Delimitation.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can inform the House of the present state of the negotiations between Turkey and Persia for the ratification of the Turco-Persian frontier; and whether any steps are being taken by His Majesty's Government and that of Russia to bring about a speedy settlement of the dispute in question, and the recall of the Turkish troops.

SIR EDWARD GREY: A joint Perso-Turkish Commission has been appointed to settle the dispute with regard to the frontier in the Passova district, and also to delimit the whole boundary between the two countries. The Commission has already arrived at Mosoul, which is to be its headquarters during the remaining winter months. The present situation does not, therefore, require any steps.

British and United States Commercial Arrangements.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: On behalf of the hon. Member for Lanark, N.W., I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether under the most-favoured-nation treaty between this country and the United States any concessions which may be granted to any foreign country are automatically extended to the United States.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The practice of this country is to treat imports from the United States not less favourably than those from any other country.

Income-Tax.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer why final notices demanding payment of income-tax, under threat of proceedings, are issued in Ireland at least one month earlier than similar notices are issued in England.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): There is no foundation for the allegation on which the Question rests.

Portsmouth Dockyard Silver Plating Works.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if his attention has been called to a prosecution and conviction at the Birmingham Police Court on the 1st instant, whereby a number of men were found working on polishing machines in silver-plating works under conditions injurious to their health, in consequence of their employer failing to provide a fan or other efficient mechanical means for removing the dust arising from the polishing wheels when running; whether he is aware that a similar condition of things exists in the electrical department of His Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth; that no apparatus is supplied to the men to prevent the inhalation of dust and fluff arising from the brushes during the process of polishing, that there is insufficient mechanical apparatus to carry away the dust and fluff, and the health of several of the men has been injured in consequence, that three men have been placed on the sick list, without pay, and one on the hurt list, with pay; and whether he will institute an inquiry into the nature of this employment, with a view to improve the conditions under which this work is done.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my hon. friend. I have received reports of the prosecution at Birmingham and of the conditions of the electric shop at Portsmouth. These reports reveal a very different state of affairs in the two places. The Birmingham case was an exceptionally bad one. At Portsmouth the records show one case on the hurt list of injury to health from the effects of inhaling dust, but I find that there has been no case on the sick list, nor has any intimation been received from men sick that they have suffered from any such cause. I am informed that an exhaust fan is fitted in the shop and is always kept in action during polishing operations, but means will be taken to secure better arrangements for exhaust ventilation. The men employed in the polishing work have been provided with respirators. The shop itself is reported by the inspector to be a lofty and airy room.

Fines and Fees in Metropolitan Police Courts.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make arrangements through the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police district whereby the several chief clerks of the Metropolitan Police Courts shall be required to forward monthly or quarterly statements to the councils of the Metropolitan boroughs and all other local authorities within that district, showing the fees, fines, and costs due and payable to them under the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, the Public Health (London) Acts, the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, and other statutes or by-laws made thereunder; and if he will issue an Order to that effect at the end of the current financial year, viz., on the 31st March, 1907.

MR. GLADSTONE: The preparation of periodical returns as suggested would occupy considerable time; and, as at present advised, I see no sufficient reason for altering the existing practice. Any representations on this subject by the local authorities concerned would of course receive my careful consideration.

Channel Islands Shipping Laws.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made, as the result of conferences with the representatives of the Channel Islands, in regard to improvements of the shipping laws obtaining in those islands.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Board of Trade have prepared detailed suggestions for legislation, framed with a view to secure uniformity, as far as possible, between the law in Jersey and Guernsey and the provisions of English law relating to certificates of competency, safety, and inquiries into shipping casualities. These suggestions were sent to the Insular Authorities a few days ago. The States of Guernsey have already passed a Bill dealing with certificates of competency, and they have been asked whether they would prefer that this Bill should receive approval separately, or that it should form part of the more extended legislation which is in contemplation.

East Staincliffe Licensing Justices.

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R. Skipton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received a resolution signed by twelve licensing justices of the East Staincliffe petty sessions, urging the necessity for early legislation to give to licensing authorities absolute powers to grant or refuse applications for new licenses, or the renewal of existing ones, for clubs where intoxicants are sold; and whether the promised licensing measure will contain some such provisions.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative; and to the second that I cannot at present add anything to my previous statements that the question of clubs is receiving consideration.

Metropolitan Accounts.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what progress has been made by the Board in connection with the preparation of an order for accounts, for the purposes of regulating and controlling the finances of the Metropolitan Water Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Metropolis Water Act, 1902.

I beg further to ask the President of the Local Government Board what steps have been taken by the Board to prepare an order for accounts for regulating the finances and account keeping of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London and the Metropolitan Distress Committees, in accordance with The Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, Section 3 (g); and whether it is contemplated to prescribe any financial regulations before the Act expires on the 11th August, 1908.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The Local Government Board have prescribed the forms of financial statement to be submitted to the auditor in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board and the Central (Unemployed) Body; but, pending the Report of the Departmental Committee on the accounts of local authorities, they have not thought it desirable to make regulations generally as to the accounts of these bodies.

Calves for the National Vaccine Establishment.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board how many calves were used at the National Vaccine Establishment during the year 1906; what interval of time elapsed, on the average, between the collection of matter from the animals and the slaughter of them; what was the price realised for the veal; what was the total weight sold; and is the meat sold for consumption in the East End or the West End of London.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The number of calves used or vaccinated during the financial year 1905–6 at the National Vaccine Establishment was 600. As a rule, the slaughter of the calf takes place the day after the collection of the matter. I have no information as to the other points referred to in the Question. I believe the meat is sold at Smithfield market.

MR. LUPTON: Is any of the veal bought by the Dinner Committee of this House?

MR. JOHN BURNS: It is not at all improbable. If it were I should not object to eating it.

Washburn Valley Afforestation Scheme.

*MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the men at work under the Leeds Distress Committee, upon the afforestation scheme in the Washburn Valley, have deducted from their wages 1s. 6d. for boots and tobacco and 9s. per week for food, leaving them 9s. 6d. per week for the upkeep of their families; that during the winter, on several occasions, when the men could only work two or three days per week owing to inclement weather, deductions from their wages were made; whether he is aware of the conditions under which the men are required to work; whether he has official information showing that 293 men were offered employment, 139 accepted, 102 only commenced work, fifty-six threw it up very soon after, and at present there are only forty-six out of the 293 who were offered employment engaged upon the forestry work; whether, seeing that the accommodation is limited to forty-eight men only, he will say whether the arrangements are the result of instructions from the Local Government Board or the Leeds Distress Committee; and whether steps will be taken so to amplify the arrangements as to give the experiment a chance of success.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have made inquiry on this subject, and am informed that the registered unemployed engaged upon the work referred to receive wages at the rate of 20s. per week of forty-eight hours, that certain deductions are made for boots and railway fares, and that there is an allowance of 6d. per week for tobacco or pocket money. The distress committee, in conjunction with the town council, have made arrangements for the board and lodging of such of the men as desire it, not exceeding forty-eight, in a wooden building in Washburn Valley. If a man elects to board himself he can do so, or he can board with the keeper of the building at 9s. 6d. for board and lodging from Monday morning to Saturday at mid-day, or 11s. for the full week. The men may arrange for board and lodging elsewhere, subject to the terms of the arrangement being communicated to the distress committee. Some of them adopt this course. The wages are only paid for time worked, but between 2nd January and 13th March there were only seventeen hours during which the work was stopped on account of inclement weather; but it is stated that on many occasions a large proportion of the men refused to work whilst others worked full time. The arrangements were made by the distress committee and were considered to be sufficient to meet all reasonable requirements.

Mr. O'GRADY: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he has received a Report from a committee of the ratepayers on the subject, and whether he is aware that the men have to walk seventeen miles to and from their work; whether he is aware that it is a celibate colony; and whether he will allow the men the privilege which is granted to the men at the Hollesley Bay Colony to return home at least once a month free of railway fares.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I have investigated the subject on the spot, and, bearing in mind that these are relief works, I have come to the conclusion that on the point neither of treatment, of accommodation nor of food have the men any more to complain of than the ordinary navvy or ordinary labourer in that particular district would have to encounter if he were not working on relief works.

Mr. O'GRADY: Is it not a fact that the chairman of the distress committee who is responsible for carrying on the experiment once said that he would rather sweep the streets than accept work under the distress committee on the terms which obtained?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: In answer to that I think I had better quote the observations of Mr. Herbert Brown, who is the chairman of the distress committee. He is reported to have said—"Several have returned to the city at the end of the first week, a few have stayed only a day and then disappeared. Moreover, it has frequently happened that men on the spot have deliberately refused to turn out to work. They have put their hand out of the door, and feeling it rather cold have sat round the stove all day." As to the question of food the same gentleman says:—"The men have no fault to find with the food or accommodation. They have bacon for breakfast; they are supplied with a light luncheon to take out with them to eat at noon, and on their return at five or six o'clock they have a substantial meal provided of meat and potatoes."

Mr. O'GRADY: Is it not a fact that the men are only supplied with eight ounces of food between the time they go out in the morning to the time they return in the evening; is it not a fact that there is only accommodation for forty-eight men, of whom forty-six have been working regularly, and that the men have on wet days gone back to their quarters with wet clothes, and having no opportunity to dry them, have had to go out to their work next day with them still wet?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: The best authority on the matter of food is the buxom lady who cooks it. She said when interviewed—"They ought not to be delicate for they eat plenty. They have eaten eighty-six lbs. of butter this last month. I bake over twenty stone of bread every week, and look here (opening one of the largest ovens) here is thirty-six lbs. of beef, and there is seventeen lbs. more stewing in that big pan, and I will be surprised if there is a scrap left after to-morrow's dinner. Why those chaps have appetites like horses, and I like to see it, if they would only waken up."

Mr. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I would like to know if the bacon supplied for breakfast is obtained from the firm of O'Mara & Co., Limerick.

MR. JOHN BURNS: If it is, I have not the least doubt that it is of its usual excellent quality.

MR. LUNDON: It is the best in the world.

Several other hon. Members rose to put questions, but,

*MR. SPEAKER: I think notice should be given of any further Questions.

New York Unemployment Returns.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what are the trades covered by the Returns of Unemployment in New York State to which he has referred, and whether he can distinguish the unemployed in the indoor and outdoor trades respectively.

MR. JOHN BURNS: There are some thirty different trades covered by the Returns referred to. They are not classified under indoor and outdoor trades, although in most cases it might be possible to distinguish them, but, as I intimated yesterday, I would suggest that the hon. Member should himself consult the Returns.

Prosecutions for Illegal Trawling.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there is any precedent for the prosecution of any subordinate member of the crew of a fishing vessel for an offence committed by the vessel at sea; and whether it has been the regular practice of all the maritime Powers of the North Sea to hold the master of the vessel, as the representative of the owner, solely responsible.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to the hon. Member's Question. The Board of Trade are not aware of a subordinate member of the crew of a fishing vessel having been prosecuted in the circumstances referred to. I believe it is the practice of the North Sea maritime Powers to regard the skipper as responsible in such circumstances.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Arising out of that Answer, may I ask if the hon. Gentleman is aware that prosecutions of subordinates are taking place at the present time in Scotland—such men are in fact being prosecuted to-morrow?

MR. KEARLEY: I do not represent the Scottish Office; I therefore cannot answer the Question.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: I thought the hon. Gentleman might like to know.

Continental Harbours for Cross-Channel Traffic.

MR. LYNCH: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, as a result of the wreck of the "Berlin," he will take steps, either in concert with the Postmaster-General by allocation of subsidies, or otherwise, to secure that the entrances to the Continental harbours used in the cross-Channel traffic shall be adapted to the steamers using them, and thus to promote the safety of the British travelling public.

MR. KEARLEY: My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, a formal investigation has been ordered into the loss of the "Berlin." Until the result of that inquiry is known, it is impossible to say what steps might be taken.

Elliot Junction Railway Accident.

MR. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, what action, in view of the penalty inflicted upon George Gourlay for his responsibility in the recent accident at Arbroath, he proposes taking, or what penalty will be imposed upon the railway company or companies for, according to the verdict of the jury in Edinburgh, the lax state of affairs existing at Elliot Junction on the date of the accident.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade are not aware of any statutory provision under which the Railway Company could be subjected to a penalty. The question of their civil liability is not a matter for the Department.

Thornley Postman's Hours of Duty.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that the sub-office postman stationed at Thornley commences work at 6.40 a.m., and continues till 2.30 p.m., which completes his full day's work, and for which he receives 16s. per week; that he is then called upon to perform three hours extra very night from 6 to 9 p.m., and for which he receives the sum of only 1s. per week, or about ¾d. per hour; and, if so, whether he will grant this man an increase in pay, especially in view of the profit made each year out of the postal system.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I have called for a Report on this subject, and on its receipt I will send the hon. Member a reply.

Kensington Gardens Trees.

VISCOUNT DALRYMPLE (Wigtown): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tiverton Division, I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works how many trees have been lopped and cut down, respectively, in Kensington Gardens during the present financial year; what sums of money have been received for the timber; and how many new park trees have been planted.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The trees lopped number 374, and eleven have been cut down. The amount received to date is £67 12s. There is, however, a large quantity of wood at present unsold. No trees have yet been planted in Kensington Gardens this year, but I hope to plant some there this autumn.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY asked whether the branches had been burned. Could they not have been given to the poor?

MR. HARCOURT: Yes, Sir; and before Christmas notices were put up that the poor would be allowed to remove any of the smaller wood that would be of use to them, and orders were given that no wood should be burned before 1st March. I am sorry to say that the poor did not avail themselves of that oppor- [illegible] probably owing to the wood being [illegible]een state.

Duke of York's Steps Footway.

VISCOUNT DALRYMPLE: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tiverton Division, I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if his attention has been called to the state of the asphalte upon the path leading from the Duke of York's Steps to Storey's Gate; and if the asphalte will be relaid shortly.

MR. HARCOURT: Temporary repairs, where necessary, will be made in the course of the year, but no general relaying can be undertaken on the present Estimates.

In reply to a further Question,

MR. HARCOURT said provision would have to be made for the work in next year's Estimates, and Parliamentary authority obtained for it.

Teachers' Pensions.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, how many of the pensions granted under the Education Minutes of December 1846, are given to claimants who were employed before August 1851, when the 1846 Minutes were rescinded; whether he can say how many of the recipients are women, and the number of the pensions at each scale of £20, £25, and £30.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): Four hundred and eight of the teachers now in receipt of code pensions were employed before August 1851, of whom 190 are women. One hundred and forty-one of these pensions are £20, 179 are £25, and eighty-eight are £30 a year.

Non-Provided Schools.

MR. CLOUGH: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion of the £5,882,500 annual grants, £2,752,000 grants in lieu of fees, £2,485,000 aid grants to local education authorities (total £11,119,500), in the Estimates of 1907–8 for the Board of Education, will be allocated to schools not provided by, and consequently not under the complete control of, local education authorities.

Mr. McKENNA: None of the grants are allocated to particular schools, but are paid to the local authorities in aid of their expenditure on the maintenance of schools. The grants referred to are calculated upon average attendance, and it is impossible to say now what the average attendance in voluntary schools will be during 1907–8, but in the statistical year ended 31st July 1906, it was approximately equivalent to 46 per cent. of the total average attendance in public elementary schools in England and Wales.

Milan Exposition Awards.

Mr. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he is aware that on 12th March the President of the British Commission to the Milan Exposition publicly announced that the diplomas and medals awarded to exhibitors had been received; if he will explain why these are being withheld by the Commission; if he is aware that, when the British Commission was organised, it was stated in a Report presented by the Executive Commissioner to the President and Members of the Commission that the awards would consist of diplomas and medals; if he is also aware that the Executive Commissioner has written to certain exhibitors who have applied for the medals and diplomas awarded them to the effect that the Exposition authorities do not present an actual medal but a diploma therefor; whether he is aware that medals have always been issued with diplomas at international expositions; and will he explain why the British Commission to the Milan Exposition issued such a misleading Report.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury): I am informed by the President of the British Commission that he did not make the statement attributed to him in the first part of the Question repecting diplomas. In point of fact the diplomas are daily expected from Milan but have not yet arrived. As it is the intention of the Commission to present the diplomas and the medals at the same time the non-arrival of the former accounts for the delay of which the hon. Member complains. I understand that it is not the case that medals have always been issued with diplomas at International Expositions, the usual practice being to present diplomas alone. This is the course actually being taken by the authorities of the Milan Exhibition, but the British Commission have determined to purchase and present bronze medals with their diplomas to Exhibitors to whom medals, &c., have been awarded. The Report referred to was based upon a misunderstanding which is regretted, but I understand the facts to be as I have stated.

Mr. HALPIN: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that that the President got a Japanese Decoration for putting a Jap on the jury instead of an Irishman?

[No Answer was returned.]

Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.

Mr. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, in what manner the case of the clerks to the surveyors of taxes is being dealt with; whether the finding of the Department will be laid upon the Table of the House; and, if so, when will this be done.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on whose behalf I replied to a question on this subject asked by the hon. Member on the 7th instant, is considering whether any improvements can be effected in the organisation of surveyors' offices. His inquiries are at present of an informal nature and are with a view to ascertaining whether a *prima facie* case is made out against the present arrangements. He is not in a position to lay any Papers.

The National Gallery.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether some steps can be taken to improve the quality of the photographs sold at the National Gallery, and to insure that copies of the principal masterpieces are procurable.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I am informed that there is at present no official sale of photographs of National Gallery pictures, but that information is officially given as to where the best photographs may be obtained, and this information will be conspicuously posted in the entrance hall as soon as the re-decoration is complete. The sale of reproductions is under the consideration of the trustees.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: But is it not the fact that photographs are sold now in the National Gallery?

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): Is it not the fact that there is a private stall for which no rent is paid—not an official stall—at which the photographs complained of are sold?

MR. RUNCIMAN: If hon. Gentlemen will put down a Question as to this private stall, I will endeavour to answer it.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Has the hon. Gentleman no information as to the private stall?

MR. RUNCIMAN: Only what I have given to the House.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, W.): Let the hon. Gentleman go and see it for himself.

Agricultural Holdings Act—Mr. Garnett of Clitheroe and his Tenants.

MR. CLOUGH: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that Mr. William Garnett, Low Moor, Clitheroe, has given his tenant farmers notice to quit on 12th May 1908, without assigning any reasons for so doing; and whether he will ascertain the real reason from Mr. Garnett, so as to make it clear that it is not in consequence of the passing of the Agricultural Holdings Act of last session.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): My noble friend placed himself in communication with Mr. Garnett on this subject, and has received from him the following reply:—

"Low Moor, Clitheroe,
"March 17th, 1907.

"My Lord,

"Permit me to tender my thanks to your Lordship for kindly calling my attention to a Question to be submitted to the House on Tuesday next which I had failed to notice in the published Parliamentary proceedings.

"My leases are copies of leases dated back sixty or seventy years at least and require readjusting.

"I had given order to my agent a year ago to serve these notices, long before the passing of the Act.

"I do not at all see that the Act named applies in my case, hence it has no terrors to induce me to wish to evade it.

"My tenants are not allowed, nor ever have been, to lay out any money on permanent improvements of any kind, and are in consequence not entitled to any compensation on quitting their holdings and as to the character of the land, there is practically not an acre of arable land in the district.

"My tenants know that any improvements which can be proved to me as desirable are carried out. All that have been, such as buildings, draining, and even manuring of a quasi-permanent kind, such as boning, etc., have in every instance been at my expense; this I have advisedly carried out, that tenants on leaving, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, should have no claim upon me or be able to say they had spent money for my benefit.

"I am sorry to say—and what most landowners will be able to confirm—that these outlays, from a financial point of view, have not been to *my advantage*.

"Trusting I have been able to answer your Lordship's letter in a way you care to have it.

"Your obedient Servant,
"(Signed) W. GARNETT."

The Right Honourable Earl Carrington,
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries,
4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.

Clifton-on-Bowmont Agricultural Experiments.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if the Board can see its way to the issue of a leaflet to county councils and farmers' clubs containing information to farmers regarding free access to Mr. Robert H. Elliot's demonstration farm at Clifton-on-Bowmont, in the county of Roxburgh.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY: The Board do not think that the issue of a leaflet would be appropriate in this case, but we shall be glad to insert a notice as to Mr. Elliot's generous offer in the next number of our Journal.

Moray Firth Trawlers.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen N.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if it is within the knowledge of the Government that rewards have been offered to those giving information as to the presence of trawlers in the waters of the Moray Firth outside the three miles limit, whether many men innocent of trawling in the prohibited area have been subjected in consequence to severe penalties; and that trawlers refrain now from entering the Moray Firth for shelter, even in stress of weather, thereby entailing on themselves much loss and danger.

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire): I have no official knowledge of rewards such as those referred to by my hon. friend having being offered. Neither am I aware that any trawler has, in consequence, been detected or subjected to any penalty. I understand that the Moray Firth is as freely used as ever for shelter by all classes of fishermen.

Scottish Riparian Rights.

Sir J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he can state what arrangements exist for protecting the rights of the Crown against assertions of private or exclusive ownership of the right to fish for salmon and trout in parts of the River Tweed, the River Teviot, the River Jed, and the Liddell Water, and in the streams that flow into those rivers; and whether any public authority has made arrangements for receiving early information of any active assertions of private or exclusive ownership over such fisheries in those waters.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The Crown rights, which are under the management of the Commissioner of Woods, only extend to salmon and fish of the salmon kind, not to the river trout. As stated in answer to a previous Question, inquiries were instituted some years ago as to the Crown rights to salmon fishings in parts of the Tweed, but the results were not considered at the time such as to justify pursuing the question further, and no special arrangements were therefore required for protecting Crown rights. The matter is now being considered, and if the hon. Member will communicate to the Commissioner of Woods any information he may have as to any apparent infringement of Crown rights, the facts will be inquired into at once.

Sir J. JARDINE: Has the Commissioner of Woods and Forests any authority to inquire what is going on?

Mr. SINCLAIR: I should prefer that that Question were addressed to the Minister responsible for that Department.

Jury Challenging at Roscommon Assizes.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. Justice Kenny, at the recent Roscommon Assizes, directed the Crown Solicitor not to permit any of the jurors who tried a particular case, and brought in a verdict not in agreement with his views, to be empanelled in any future cases coming before him; and whether the Crown Solicitor is in any way bound by this direction.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. I would refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave yesterday to the similar Question put by the hon. and learned Member for South Donegal.†

Vandeleur Estate Evicted Tenants.

Mr. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have reinstated all the evicted tenants on the Vandeleur property in West Clare on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 12th, 13th and 14th instant; and whether, if all were not reinstated, he will make inquiries why they were not, and when they will be reinstated.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): The

---

† See Col. 485.

Estates Commissioners are aware that their inspector has been engaged for several days past in restoring evicted tenants on the Vandeleur Estate, but they have not yet received his Report in the matter, and in the meantime are unable to furnish details.

MR. HALPIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman continue to use his influence with the Estates Commissioners with a view to settling these West Clare tenants?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not think the Estates Commissioners require any pressure from me. They are most anxious to expedite their work.

Crime in Cavan and Sussex.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the boycotting of Mr. Thomas E. Taylor, of Blacklion, county Cavan, which was discontinued about 20th February last, was resumed with additional severity on Monday, 4th March; whether this boycotting still continues; and what steps are being taken to deal with the case.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers, may I ask if his attention has been called to the fact that according to the last Returns there were only seventy-three indictable offences in county Cavan and 336 non-indictable offences, whereas in the county of Sussex there were in the same period 1,540 indictable offences and 7,282 non-indictable offences. And I would ask whether it is decent for the hon. Gentleman, in view of the fact that his county shows twenty times as many indictable offences——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham): How do the two counties compare for population?

MR. BIRRELL: I propose to answer the Question on the Paper. I am informed by the police authorities that it is not the case that the boycotting of Mr. Taylor has been resumed with additional severity. Two or three persons have refused to supply him with goods, but he has no difficulty in obtaining supplies from others in the locality, or in disposing of his produce. In the circumstances, no action has been called for, but the police will, of course, afford to Mr. Taylor any protection which may become necessary to secure the exercise of his legal rights.

Simpson Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenant.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Michael Regan, Corlona, Drumsna, on the Simpson Estate, in county Leitrim; and if the same will be considered by them.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received the application in question, and have had the case investigated by their inspector, whose report is under consideration.

Ensor Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenants.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Francis Murphy, Drumdarkin, Cloone, on the Ensor Estate, in county Leitrim; and if the case will be investigated by an inspector.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received the application, and have referred it to their inspector for investigation in connection with the proposed sale of the Ensor Estate, which is at present before them.

La Touche Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenants.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received their inspector's report with regard to the reinstatement of Francis Donlon, Errew, Carrigallen, on the La Touch Estate, in county Leitrim; and, as the person at present in occupation of the farm is willing to give it up in case he is compensated, and as the landlord does not object to this arrangement, if the Estates Commissioners will have the evicted tenant reinstated without further delay.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have not yet received their inspector's report on this case, and are therefore not at present in a position to consider the question of reinstating the evicted tenant.

Clements Estate (Leitrim) Evicted Tenant.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Mrs. Ann Kerrigan, who is at present in America, for the farm of land formerly belonging to her at Clooncarne, on the Clements Estate, in county Leitrim; and if the same will be considered.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have not received an application from Mrs. Kerrigan.

Listowel Estate, North Kerry, Evicted Tenants.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what action has been taken by the Estates Commissioners in connection with the untenanted land at Ennismore, on the Listowel Estate, North Kerry, which has been offered to the Estate Commissioners for the reinstatement of evicted tenants, the enlargement of uneconomic holdings, and making allotments to labourers; and whether he can state how soon the land will be acquired by the Estate Commissioners.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estate Commissioners inform me that they have made an offer to the owner in this case, but have not yet heard whether he is willing to accept it.

Licensing (Ireland) Act, 1902.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Government to renew the Licensing (Ireland) Act, 1902, which expires this year.

MR. BIRRELL: The question of undertaking the necessary renewing legislation is under consideration.

Ballylongford Untenanted Lands.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will ask the Estates Commissioners to communicate with Mr. J. D. Crosbie, Ballyheigue, county Kerry, who holds from Trinity College some 400 acres of untenanted land situated near Ballylongford, North Kerry; and whether, as Mr. Crosbie is willing to sell his interest in this land, the Estates Commissioners will take immediate action to secure the same for the reinstatement of evicted tenants and the removal of the congestion which exists in the district.

MR. BIRRELL: I have referred this Question to the Estates Commissioners, who inform me that they will make inquiries with regard to the untenanted land mentioned.

Housing Loans for Irish Urban Councils.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the importance of encouraging urban councils in Ireland to build workmen's houses, he will consider the advisability of granting loans for such purposes, on the same terms as regards rate of interest and time of repayment as were granted under the Labourers (Ireland) Act of last year.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I have nothing to add to the reply given by my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary on the 26th ultimo to a similar question by the hon. Member for Limerick.†

Unpaid Board of Works Loan.

MR. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the amount of the Board of Works loan borrowed by the late Conor Haugh, of Doonaha, West Clare, still remaining due; when was the last instalment paid to the Board of Works; and whether the Board of Works have taken any steps to recover the amount of the loan still dne.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am informed that a loan of £110 was made to Connor Haugh in 1883 and the last instalment that has been paid on account thereof was in 1901. The tenant of the holding then left the country, and no steps can be taken for recovering the sum of £74 16s. 2d. which is still due on account of the loan.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1447.

Irish Post Office Savings Bank Headquarters.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he would consider the advisability of making Dublin the head office for Ireland, as far as the Post Office Savings Bank is concerned, owing to the delay occasioned to parties living in rural districts, having only one daily delivery of letters, having to wait about five days, when they wish to withdraw money from the Post Office, before they get a reply from London, and also as it would be the means of giving more employment to Post Office officials in Ireland.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The question whether it would be advisable to transfer to Dublin the administration of the Irish business of the Post Office Savings Bank has been considered on several occasions, and it has been found that there is greater administrative convenience and economy in keeping the Savings Bank accounts at a single centre. The hon. Member has no doubt not overlooked the fact that withdrawals up to £1 may be made at any Post Office Savings Bank in the United Kingdom without previous notice.

Irish Coercion Act.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he will introduce a measure to carry out the decision come to by the House and the Government that the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act should be immediately repealed.

Notice had also been given of the following Question:

LORD R. CECIL: To ask the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the Resolution passed in this House last Wednesday which declared that the presence of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act on the Statute-book is a gross violation of the Constitution without parallel in any other portion of His Majesty's dominions, and for which he voted, he proposes to introduce a Bill for the repeal of the Act mentioned; and, if so, at what date.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer the noble Lord's Question at the same time. My right hon. friend the Chief Secretary stated in the debate that it was impossible for the Government to undertake immediate action in this matter. There are more urgent questions on hand, particularly Irish questions; and the powers given to the Government under this Act are not being used.

MR. LAMBTON: Is the Resolution null and void then? My Question refers to the Resolution, not to the language of the Chief Secretary.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not think the Resolution is null and void because it is not immediately put into effect.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Do the Government really propose to tolerate on the Statute-book an Act which, according to the Resolution of last Wednesday, is "a gross violation of the Constitution without parallel in any other portion of His Majesty's dominions"?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is tolerated for many reasons. In the first place, there is the difficulty of getting it expunged; in the second place, we have other things to do; and then, as I have said, the Act is treated as of no effect by the present Executive.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): It remains as a memorial of the Cecils.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

*MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) asked the Speaker's ruling with regard to the Motion dealing with the acquisition of land by local authorities, which was down for consideration that evening. The hon. Member for Norwich had at the last moment altered his original notice of Motion in substance as well as in form. It now included a proposal for compulsion; and it further added a provision that the value at which land was to be purchased should be that at which it was assessed for purposes of taxation—a matter to which there was no allusion, direct or indirect, in the Resolution as it originally stood on the Paper.† Would it, he asked, be in order for the hon. Member to move the Resolution in its new form, and to what extent was it in the power of an hon. Member to vary his notice of Motion at the last moment?

*MR. SPEAKER said the rule might be stated thus:—It was open to any hon. Member to vary his Motion, but it must not go beyond the notice of Motion which was originally given. In his opinion the second Motion, of which the hon. Member gave notice yesterday, did very considerably go beyond the limits of the Motion of which he first gave notice. Therefore in calling upon him that evening he thought he must ask the hon. Member to omit the words enabling local authorities to acquire land "compulsorily, and to base the purchase price on the value at which the land was assessed for purposes of taxation." The reason for the rule was obvious. Hon. Members seeing a Notice on the Paper to which they possibly might have no objection might make arrangements for not being present or might avoid preparing themselves to speak upon it, but if at the last moment some entirely new Motion appeared on the Paper they might find themselves taken by surprise.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure; Mr. Pike Pease; and had appointed in substitution: Viscount Castlereagh.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Railways (Contracts) Bill; Mr. Lambton, Sir William Holland, Mr. Abel Smith, Viscount Helmsley, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Beale, Mr. Mond, Mr. Clement Edwards, Mr. Myer, Mr. Brunner, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Akers-Douglas, Mr. John Williams, Mr. Menzies, and Mr. Wedgwood.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 87.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 87.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Friday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 116.]

NEW BILLS.

RIGHTS OF WAY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Rights of Way in Scotland," presented by Mr. Gulland; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 117.]

PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (No. 2) BILL.

"To permit the release on Probation of Offenders in certain cases, and for other matters incidental thereto," presented by Mr. Secretary Gladstone; supported by MR. Herbert Samuel; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 118.]

---

† The original notice of Motion was as follows:—"That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that more complete powers should be conferred upon Local Authorities empowering them to purchase land on fair terms, and enabling them to hold the same until such times as it is considered advisable to utilise it for public purposes."

The amended notice of Motion read:—"That, in the opinion of this House, a measure is urgently needed enabling Local Authorities to acquire by agreement or compulsorily, and by simple and inexpensive machinery, such land within or adjoining their several districts as may, in their judgment, be needed for the requirements of the community; and further, that, in all such cases of Land Acquisition, the purchase price should be definitely based upon the value at which land is assessed for purposes of taxation."

RATING APPEALS (COSTS) BILL.

"To enable the councils of counties and county boroughs to contribute to certain Costs of Appeals against Poor Rates," presented by Mr. Barnard; supported by Mr. Godfrey Baring, Mr. Bethell, Mr. Bertram, Colonel Carlile, Viscount Helmsley, Mr. Abel Smith, and Mr. Micklem; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 119.]

SMALL HOLDINGS (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Small Holdings Act, 1892," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings; supported by Colonel Long, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. William Nicholson, and Mr. Arthur Stanley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 27th March, and to be printed. [Bill 120.]

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs) in asking leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to patents and designs, said: This Bill introduces a good many improvements which have been found necessary in the working of the patent laws in this country. The main object is to simplify and cheapen procedure. The Bill will make provision for the grant of patents of addition, there will be additional checks against invalid patents, and a cheaper procedure for the revocation of patents. These will be introduced in the interest of the poor inventor, for, although it often suits a rich and powerful company to have complicated and expensive machinery, it very often involves ruin for a poor inventor. I propose, therefore, to introduce a series of conditions which, I hope, will effect a considerable cheapening of procedure. I do not know that we can ever make the patent laws cheap as long as the fees of counsel and experts are high, but something can be done in order to meet the difficulty. I also propose to introduce later on a Consolidation Bill, and if that Bill goes through the Grand Committee on Trade I think it will be possible to amalgamate it with the present Bill. But the main object of this Bill, after all, is to prevent the patent laws from being used for the hindrance and suppression of British industrial development. The object of the patent laws is to reward ingenuity, and by so doing to encourage invention and to promote British industry. Unfortunately, however, they have been used in many respects to discourage the British inventor and to destroy many British industries. What is happening at the present moment? Out of 14,700 patents issued last year, 6,500 are foreign. I do not object to that, but a good many of these patents have been taken out not for the purpose of working the patents in this country but for the purpose of preventing their being worked. That I consider to be an abuse of a privilege conceded by British laws. There is a still worse abuse, on the whole I think it is the worst. The British inventor who takes out a patent is very often a poor man who has been able to get his patent financed up to a certain point. After he has started and set up works and purchased machinery, there comes a powerful foreign syndicate which has found there is something in his patent which they imagine is covered by an invention they have already patented—for these patents are very often in exceedingly vague terms. This syndicate then brings to bear the whole machinery of their powerful organisation to crush the inventor. He is brought before the Court of first instance, and if he wins there he is taken to the Court of Appeal, and then dragged up to the House of Lords, by which time all the capital he has been able to raise for the purpose of working his patent is expended in law costs, and the patent which ought to have been an encouragement to his ingenuity has simply become a trap for his ruin. That I consider to be a thoroughly flagrant abuse of the privileges conferred by British institutions upon foreigners on equal terms with Britons, and I think it ought to be put an end to. The mere fact that it has not been put an end to is in itself a proof of the long-suffering of the average Briton. An attempt was, I think, made by the late Government to deal with this problem. I am not criticising their method—for, after all, in these things we must proceed experimentally—when I say that the attempt was a failure, because of the very expensive character of patent litigation. Mr. Levinstein, who took a great interest in this question, brought an action under the Act in order to expose the futility of the machinery. It cost him about £4,000, and that naturally discouraged further experiment in the same line. Therefore, there is very little use trusting to that Act. It is much too expensive. The suitor has to go before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, a very costly proceeding. It is clear, therefore, that some other means must be found for putting an end to the abuse. I propose to apply three or four methods. In the first place, I propose to simplify the procedure of compulsory licence; and instead of the applicant having to go before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as at present, he will go, first of all, before the Controller and afterwards before a Judge specially selected by the Lord Chancellor, who will be habitually dealing with patent cases. This method will tend very considerably to shorten the hearing of cases, because they will be dealt with by an expert Judge. A second method is that any applicant can go to the Controller three years after the granting of any patent and apply for the revocation of the patent on the ground that it has not been adequately worked within the United Kingdom. There is another point of great importance. Big foreign syndicates have one very effective way of destroying British industries. They first of all apply for patents on a very considerable scale. They suggest every possible combination — for instance in chemicals—which human ingenuity can possibly think of. These combinations the syndicates have not tried themselves. They are not in operation, say, in Germany or elsewhere. But the syndicates put them in their patents in obscure and vague terms so as to cover any possible invention that may be discovered afterwards in this country. What happens? A British inventor makes a *bona fide* discovery. He attempts to patent it. He probably secures a patent. But the moment he does so this powerful foreign sydicate brings an action against him for infringement of patent. They include, possibly, as many as fifteen or sixteen counts in their indictment; they employ the ablest and consequently the most expensive counsel at the British Bar, and the best scientific experts. The result is that the poor British inventor, before there is time for his invention to take root, or to become a success, is simply overwhelmed by this tremendous combination. In that way many British industries have been wiped out. There are two ways in which the Bill proposes to meet that state of things. One is by compulsory working, and the second by forcing powerful syndicates —home, of course, as well as foreign—to deposit samples, where the Patent Office demand them, or else their application will be refused. There is another way in which foreign patents work in restraint of British trade. Before a manufacturer, say in the boot trade—a trade in which this grievance has been particularly felt —can use the patent he is obliged to sign a kind of lease for twenty years, during which period he is prohibited from using any other machinery. There may be a considerable improvement in machinery discovered meanwhile by a British inventor, or by some other foreign inventor, but the manufacturer, under the conditions of his lease, will not be allowed to put the improved machinery into his works. It was thought that such conditions, acting in restraint of trade, could be set aside; but according to the decision of Mr. Justice Wills, the patentee has the right to impose any conditions, however unreasonable, he pleases. There are many people in this country working under these impossible conditions, which at any time may have the most serious consequences to the industries of this country. I propose that in future these conditions shall be nugatory. I have not time now to deal with the objection that this is a protective measure. I think it is in the interest of free trade. I am not afraid of foreign competition as long as British trade is free to fight it. I would free British trade from impossible conditions abroad and from equally stupid tariff systems at home. At the present moment many British industries are bound hand and foot by the working of the patent system. Many British industries have been completely wiped out by privileges conceded by British institutions to foreigners. I propose that these bonds shall be cut; and that the British industry shall be made perfectly free to engage on equal terms in the severe struggle with its competitors.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to Patents and Designs"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich): I wish to——

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Gentleman rise to oppose?

MR. BONAR LAW: No, Sir.

*MR. SPEAKER: Then the hon. Gentleman cannot speak under the ten minutes rule.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Kearley.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Patents and Designs," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 121.]

SMALL LANDHOLDERS IN SCOTLAND.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire), in asking leave to introduce a Bill to encourage the formation of small agricultural holdings in Scotland, and to amend the law relating to the tenure of such holdings (including crofters' holdings); to establish Agricultural Commissioners for Scotland; and for other purposes connected therewith, said: Last July I introduced a Bill under the same title, with which it was not found possible to proceed. Since then the Report of the Select Committee on Small Holdings has been issued; and its recommendations have been seriously considered by the Government in relation to the Bill. The purposes of the measure are to encourage the formation of small holdings, to direct people and capital to the land by opening up a career in the industry of farming to those who work, or who wish to work, on the land. It is no exaggeration to say that the rural districts should support at least double their present population. Yet in Scotland during the last fifty years, while the population of the entire country has increased by close on 2,000,000, there has been an absolute decrease of not less than 400,000 in the rural districts alone. In the northern district the decrease according to census returns has been 5·13 per cent., in the north-west 1·36, and in the southern district 5·08 per cent., or very nearly the same decrease as in the most northern and most remote parts of these islands. The population of the rural districts has fallen by 42,704 in spite of the great increase in the total population. If, disregarding for the moment the variations in the towns and villages, we look simply at the changes in population of the rural districts in the counties, we find that, except in the five counties of Elgin, Kinross, Renfrew, Lanark, and Linlithgow, the "rural" population of Scotland has during the last ten years shown a decrease in every single county. This is not a tendency peculiar to Scotland or to England. It is common to the other civilised countries of the world. No country comparable to ours has so small a percentage of people in its rural districts. Our competitors, Germany, France, Belgium, and even the United States, which has nearly half its population in the rural districts, are already taking active steps to defend themselves from these dangers. It is high time, therefore, that we should move in the matter. This is the purely political side of the subject. But there is another side. I am not belittling the unrivalled farming which is to be found in this country and the public spirit of many of those who lead the way in agriculture here when I say that we cannot be satisfied either with the productiveness of the land of this island as a whole or the uses to which that land is put. No doubt there are many parts in every district of the country where there are farms, especially large farms, which are thoroughly well equipped and highly cultivated, where there are prize herds and flocks, the blood of which is sought by buyers in every part of the world; and there are other branches of farming in this country which have no equal elsewhere which bring good livings; but when other tests are applied the answers are not so satisfactory. I ask, in the first place, is the rent of land what it was? Certainly not. Is the area of arable land increasing? It is not the case. Is our live stock increasing? Is there more live stock or less to the acre than in other countries? Compare this country with Germany and other countries, and inquire what the answer is. Is there more or less perishable farm produce being imported this year than last year? What attention do we give to agricultural organisation? Practically none. What public money do we spend on agricultural education and agricultural colleges? This Bill, which is on the same lines as the Bill of last year, contains proposals which apply to the whole of Scotland, and I do not wish to lead the House to suppose that the circumstances of any part of Scotland specially have influenced the Government in framing the measure. As I have made an observation on the uses to which the land of the country has been put, let me give one or two details from Scotland. My indefatigable friend the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty was the parent of a Return on deer forests in the five Highland counties of Scotland, namely, Argyle, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness. In 1883 at the time of the crofter agitation the number of acres under deer in these counties was 1,700,000. In 1904 the similar figure was 2,900,000 acres. This figure omits all reference to other counties, such as Perth, Aberdeen, Elgin, and Forfar, everyone of which contains land which is exclusively devoted to sport. The area under deer in the five Highland counties which I have named is nearly one-sixth of the whole area of Scotland, and if a fair calculation is made in regard to the other counties which I have named we shall not be very far from the mark if we say that, approximately, one-fifth of the whole area of Scotland is under deer. The county of Forfar, which I have the honour to represent, contains 560,000 acres. In 1883 three times the area of the county of Forfar was under deer. Since that time there has been added twice the area of the county of Forfar. Now, I do not pretend that you can do impossibilities. It is true you cannot grow wheat where deer will live, but there are other uses to which forest land can be put. I am no enemy of sport, provided sport comes in its proper place. Modern science says practically, "Give me manure and give me water, and I will grow anything." [Cries of dissent.] That is a phrase and possibly an exaggeration. But if there is to be a revival of our country districts there must be a revival of farming. Comparing this country with many others it cannot be alleged that the decay of farming is due solely to our soil, which is not inferior to that of other countries. Nor is it due to the climate. If there is to be a reversal of present tendencies it is safe to say that those who work on the land are at the present time to far too great an extent merely hired labourers. Both they and their savings must be admitted to a larger and more intimate interest in the land of the country. It is true of farmers as of other people that they will not invest their savings unless there is security for their money. If farming is becoming more scientific and more costly, more complete security will be demanded by those who put capital into the land. The first thing, therefore, we have to do if we are to check this tendency to depopulation is to give security of tenure to existing holders. We can then go on to consider what should be done to create new holders; but it would surely be folly to spend Government money in creating new holders before attacking and, if possible, counteracting the tendency which is absorbing the present holders. Much of what I have said applies beyond Scotland. Let me say that this Bill applies solely to Scotland and that there is nothing in it which is not founded upon and developed from the actual working of two statutes, namely, the Crofters Act, 1886, and the Congested Districts Act, 1897. To that statement I must make one qualification. Hitherto we have been working without compulsory powers, and we do take compulsory powers by this Bill. It may not be out of place if I remind the House what a crofter is. Some crofters are yearly tenants, some are leaseholders, but only yearly tenants have been admitted to the benefits of the Act of 1886 and are technically crofters. A crofter is "a person who was a tenant of, and resided on his holding, the annual rent of which did not exceed £30, and which was situated in a crofting parish, and the successors of such person in the holding, being his heirs or legatees." A crofting parish is one "in which there were at the commencement of the Act or had been within eighty years prior thereto holdings consisting of arable land with a right of pasturage in common with others, and in which there still were tenants of holdings from year to year, who resided on their holdings." Under the Crofters Act the crofter obtained a complete but a strictly conditional security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his holding except in consequence of a breach of statutory conditions. These conditions are that he must pay his rent when due and payable, that he is not to assign his tenancy, and that he is not to injure his holding by the dilapidation of buildings or by the deterioration of the soil to the prejudice of the landlord. He is not, without the consent of the landlord in writing, to sub-divide or sub-let his holding or any part of it, or to erect upon it any additional dwelling house. He is not to violate any written condition, signed by him for the protection of the interest of the landlord or of neighbouring crofters, which the Crofters Commission find reasonable. He is not to become a bankrupt and not to execute a trust deed for behoof of creditors. The landlord has the right of entry upon the holding for mining, quarrying, making roads, shooting, fishing, and other purposes. He is not to open a house for the sale of intoxicating liquors without the consent of his landlord. Subject to these conditions the landlord's interest in the holding remains and power is reserved to him to resume the holding when authorised by the Commissioners for any reasonable purpose having relation to the good of the holding or the estate. Two other points should be mentioned. The Crofters Commissioners are given compulsory powers to assign land for the enlargement of holdings, and their decision—and this is a most important point—in regard to any of the matters committed to their determination by the Act is final and not subject to appeal. The Act applies to all the crofting parishes in the seven crofting counties. Of 163 civil parishes in these counties, 151 are crofting parishes. Let me give the House some particulars as to what the Commission have done. Up to 31st December 1904, the Commissioners had fixed 20,179 fair rents. They reduced the old rents so dealt with from £83,180 to £61,589, or an annual reduction of £21,590. The arrears dealt with amounted to £184,981. Of this a sum of £124,194 has been cancelled, leaving the balance of £60,787 to be paid. The Commissioners then assigned 49,015 acres for the enlargement of crofters' holdings. There is no doubt, and now no question, of the success of the Crofters Act. It has benefited the crofter by encouraging him to spend his money and his labour in improving his holding. Better houses have been built; there is a higher standard of cultivation to be found, and a better standard of comfort, though much yet remains to be done in these respects. It is commonly supposed that while the Crofters Acts have proved beneficial to the tenants, they are, somehow or other, detrimental to the landlord. That is not the case. In the first place, rents which before the passing of the Acts were nominal rents in many cases, and were unpaid, are paid regularly now, and the interest of the landlord in the holding is increased by every such payment. If the sale value of crofting estates be taken as the criterion of benefit, fixity of tenure has very considerably increased the sale value of the landlord's property. Before fixity of tenure was given to the crofters nobody would have dreamed of valuing a crofting rental at more than seventeen years purchase. Now, under the changed conditions, such rentals are valued not uncommonly at twenty-two, twenty-four, and even more years purchase. And for this reason, that, although the rent may be reduced, it is regularly paid; and it is secured by the tenant's improvements, and in addition the landlord is relieved of all expenditure for improvements—outlay on account of buildings and repairs. Hon. Members may be able to test the statement which I make. It is within the knowledge of many that from twenty-four to twenty-eight years purchase of the net return is a common basis of valuation for the sale of large farms having rentals of £200 or £300 per annum, where, although the rents are large, the landlord has periodically to undertake considerable outlays for buildings. If that be the case it proves that the operation of the Crofters Act has tended to bring the value of crofting property very nearly, if not quite, up to the value of other property of a different character in different parts of Scotland. I am confident that I am understating and not overstating the case when I give these figures. Another point must be emphasised. The average reduction of rent effected by the Crofters Commissioners amounts to something like 25 to 30 per cent. of the rental. Since 1883, when the agitation arose, outside the operation of the first Crofters Act rents have fallen at least as much as in the district within which the Crofters Commissioners administer, so that the landlords in the north of Scotland whose land has come under the operation of the Crofters Act are no worse off than their neighbours further south. Indeed they are better off, because they are relieved from the cost of upkeep and improvements, and every shilling which their tenants spend in improving their holdings or the buildings upon them increases the security of the landlord for his rent and the capital value of his land. It is often urged, however, that a crofter is not as other men are; that principles applied with success to the crofting counties are wholly inapplicable elsewhere. What are the characteristics of a crofter? The area under the Crofters Act presents two problems. In the islands there is congestion of the population; on the mainland there is depopulation. The croft of the western islands is simply an accommodation holding; a house and garden, with a bit of ground and grazing rights, at a rent of £1 to £5; a home for the old people, or for the wife and children, while the breadwinner is away earning his annual income elsewhere—working in Glasgow perhaps for the winter or at the herring fishing. From this extreme there are endless gradations until we come to the small farmer on the mainland, for example on the coasts of the Moray Firth, in Ross-shire or Inverness-shire, who owns sheep, cattle, and horses, and pays a rent of anything under £30, but has no common grazing. Both these men are crofters under the Act. The crofter in Easter Ross is, as a matter of fact, indistinguishable, so far as the conditions of his farming are concerned, from any small farmer in the south of Scotland, with this exception, that he enjoys the rights and the responsibilities under the Crofters Acts and makes his own improvements. The Crofters Act has never been amended in any important particular. Its object lesson is the advantage to the small holder of fixity of tenure, and the demand of the "excluded" crofter is identical with that of the small holder elsewhere and everywhere—security of tenure. That is essential for the successful conduct of his business. It is said that crofter tenure establishes dual ownership. All partnerships in land are more or less dual ownerships, but this criticism is intended to imply that the dual ownership established by the Crofters Act is the dual ownership of the Irish Land Act of 1881. This is not the proper occasion for argument on a detail of this kind, or it would be my duty—and I do not think it would be a difficult duty—to show that the crofter tenure differs widely from the tenure of the Irish Land Act of 1881. It would also not be difficult to show that it was not dual ownership but other considerations which brought about the amendment of the Act. Before I describe the operation of the Congested Districts Act of 1897, let me remind the House that in 1892 Sir George Trevelyan, then Secretary for Scotland, appointed a Royal Commission to inquire what land in the seven crofting counties then occupied for the purposes of a deer forest, grouse moor, or other sporting purposes, or for grazing, not in the occupation of crofters or other small tenants, was capable of being cultivated to profit or of being occupied by crofters or other small tenants. The Bill founded on the report of that Commission for the amendment of the Crofters Act was introduced in 1894 and again in 1895, but did not go beyond a Second Reading, because before further progress could be made with it Parliament was dissolved. Just as Sir George Trevelyan's Bills of 1894 and 1895 amending the Crofters Act followed the report of the Deer Forests Commission, as the expression of Liberal policy, so did the Congested Districts Act of 1897 express the policy of the Conservative Party. In dealing with the crofter question the policy which had been favoured by the Conservative Party in recent years is the policy of land purchase. Three members of the Deer Forests Commission advocated "a well-considered scheme of land purchase" in an addendum to the Report of the Commission. The contention is that if, in the public interest, their lands are to be used against their will for the purposes of settlement of crofters, it is only fair that the Government should be ready to purchase from the proprietors. Then came the Congested Districts Act of 1897, which established a Board of Commissioners, with an income of £30,000 a year, to be applied at their discretion, for providing land by purchase or otherwise; for subvention into holdings; for aiding emigration from congested districts, developing agriculture, dairy farming, the breeding of live stock, and other purposes. This policy was probably in some degree due to the example of the Irish policy of the Government of the day, and while in many respects it was supplementary, and usefully so, to the policy of the Crofters Act, it was, in one particular, directly antagonistic to it; for while they refused to amend the Crofters Act and face the extension of crofter tenure, by the Congested Districts Act the Conservative Government gave power for the institution of land purchase and the creation of peasant proprietorships. In the formation of small holdings the Congested Districts Board have followed two different lines of policy. By land purchase on the Irish model they have created 230 holdings which are now being paid for by instalments. This number will be greatly added to by the tenants of Kilmuir in Skye, which has been bought by the Congested Districts Board and is now being adapted for this purpose. On the other hand, they have aided in the formation of 437 holdings, which are tenancies, mostly under the Crofters Act. Let me give one instance of how these schemes of tenancies have been worked. A proprietor is willing that a farm or farms shall be broken up and settled into small holdings of this kind. He notifies his assent to the Congested Districts Board and their officials inspect the land and draw up a scheme for the subdivision of the land with regard to roads, drains, watercourses, etc.—indeed for all the details which must accompany such a scheme. In some cases in which houses have to be built the Congested Districts Board have power to make advances on the security of the land to the future tenant. In this way several farms have been broken up with the cordial co-operation of the proprietors. Let me give an illustration. Take a farm of £120 a year, and if this is not the actual figure it represents the facts. The landlord is getting a gross rental of £120 a year, having the responsibility to make repairs. By the agency of the Congested Districts Board the farm is broken up and a number of settlers are put upon it. The landlord, as before, receives a total rent of £120, but he receives it as a net rent instead of a gross rent and *pro tanto* his property has been improved by Government money in opening it up and providing roads and drainage. It may be asked, Is the Government outlay justifiable under these circumstances? I believe it is. It is not fair to put the question of adapting the land for this purpose upon the landlord, as everybody knows that the one great obstacle to providing model holdings is in supplying houses for those holdings. It is not fair that the burden shall fall upon the landlord, nor is it fair that it shall fall upon the tenant, as he will be sitting at a rent which he will not be able to pay. Nor is it justifiable that the Government shall advance all the money. Just as it is justifiable to advance money for the purchase of land, however, so it is justifiable, in these country districts, to come forward and help the landlord to adapt his land to the new conditions demanded by the public interest. There are two other Acts which I may mention in order to show that they have been entirely inoperative in Scotland—the Small Holdings Act, which has been entirely inoperative, and the Allotments Act, the work done under the latter being so small that it is practically a dead letter, and I need not allude to it. If the lesson of the Crofters Act is that security of tenure is essential to the well-being of a small holder, the lesson of the working of the Congested Districts Act is, first, that it is possible by Government action to settle people on the land, with the co-operation of landowners, giving security of tenure; and, secondly; that security of tenure can be conferred upon the small holder in one of two ways—by a system of land purchase, under which he becomes the owner of his holding; and by a system of tenancy, under which he obtains a conditional security of tenure, similar to that enjoyed by the crofters. It is, perhaps, too early to draw inferences from the working of these experiments, but it is possible to compare the two policies without leaning too much on the experience of the last ten years. That experience, for what it is worth, is distinctly in favour of the tenancy system. While a system of land purchase confers complete rights of ownership, with all the advantages inseparable from that condition, it is more costly to the State, and it places the State in the position of a landlord in direct relations with the tenant. Now a Government Department is not a good bargainer. It is expected to buy dear and to sell cheap. Furthermore, a Government Department in the position of a landlord, especially for so long a term of years as a system of payment by instalment must imply, is subject to serious political pressure. Moreover, it is not necessary for the achievement of the purpose in view to expropriate the landlords. No doubt there is a market for limited purposes, and of a limited kind, for the sale of land on such terms in Scotland; but purchase is not desired or preferred as a policy, and it is not popular in Scotland, possibly for the reason that besides being costly to the State, it is also costly to the tenant. Tenants in Scotland wish to push on—they wish to make the most of their money. To be tenant of a holding requires not more than one-fourth of the capital which would be required to own and cultivate the same holding. On the other hand, a system of tenancy which is less ambitious, less drastic, and more conservative, involving, as it does, not the expropriation of the landlord, but the minimum interference with his discretion, requires no examination of title, no arbitrations, no great cost, and, in the security which it gives to the tenant, affords him an inducement equal to that of land purchase to make the best of his holding. At the same time he is not tied to his holding for ever. The land is neither purchased nor resold by any Government Department. The sphere of the Government is restricted to determining the policy and system under which the land is to be held and adjusting the rights of the parties to the bargain. It is urged, however, that to apply this system to the Lowlands would be an injustice, on the ground that whereas in the Highlands the tenants have made their own improvements, it is otherwise in the Lowlands. If that were the case—if it were possible to draw any line in Scotland and say that north of that line, always, the tenants made their own improvements, whereas south of it that has not been the case—even so, I can see no injustice in applying this system to tenancies in which hitherto the landlords have made all the improvements. They will get a fair rent for holdings, equipped as they are, buildings and all. What landlord can claim more? But no such fixed line can be drawn. All that can be said is that in the Lowlands it has been the general practice that improvements shall be made by the landlord, and not by the tenant. As a matter of fact, and as a matter of history, the practice was gradual and not universal, or simultaneous, in its introduction. I should like, if I may, to read to the House a passage from a letter from a large farmer on the subject of the crofters. He says—

> "The importance of this class of citizen to the State cannot be over-estimated. The cottar who has only a cottage and no land does not produce the same class of man at all. It is the toil, energy, thrift, and enterprise which the croft or small farm calls out that does it. This class of man, of such importance to the State, is gradually being driven out. Within the memory of living man, ninety crofts and small farms have disappeared in this district. The landlord is not to blame, for we know no one would be more anxious to have these small men retained than he. The cost of buildings is such that no landlord short of pure philanthropy can keep them up. Yet I hold that the State cannot afford to let these small crofters go. It is a matter for the State, pure and simple. The laws are largely to blame for this *impasse*. The present system has broken down, for there are fifty offers for every small place in the market, and yet those small farms are being done away with because the landlord cannot afford to keep them up. The history of the crofter in Aberdeenshire is something like this: A man built a house in a bog and was allowed for a nominal rent to reclaim what land he could. He built, he drained, he toiled and made a small farm. At the end of his lease his rent was raised and all his buildings and improvements went to the landlord. This was all quite within the law, yet the tenant felt it a hardship. The next generation profited by the lesson and said, If our improvements go to the landlord we will not make any. The

result was and is that the landlord has to do all the improvements. If the tenant was assured of proper compensation he would do a great many things himself and he would do them cheaper and far more economically than the landlord can do. At present when anything has to be done the tenant tries to get all he can, but if he had the doing of it himself, he would try to do with as little as possible. This has the most important bearing on the difficulty raised."

There are other portions of the letter which I need not quote, but it is important as coming from a large farmer in Aberdeeshire. If it is fair to the Highland landlord to impose these conditions upon him, why is it not fair to impose them on the Lowland landowner? One man has as good a title to his land as the other. And we all know that the differences which are said to exist between the Highlands and the Lowlands are being rapidly diminished. The introduction of railways, telegraphs, telephones, motor cars, and so forth is obliterating them; the need of the Lowlands for alteration in this regard is just as great as that of the Highlands. Moreover, owing to railway facilities and the proximity of markets the prospects of the success of a small holding are infinitely greater in the Lowlands than in the remote Highland districts. Hundreds and hundreds of tons of vegetables and other produce pass through the Lowlands every day to feed the teeming millions of Glasgow, and the prospects in that part of the country, therefore, are infinitely greater. The House will gather that the Government proposes by this Bill to provide security of tenure for all small holders, and for the creation of new holdings by agreement or by the exercise of compulsory powers.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) asked whether there was also to be fixity of rent.

MR. SINCLAIR: I was going to give those particulars in a moment, but it may be convenient if I give the House now the full particulars of what I propose to do. In the first place, the Crofters Act within the crofting area will be applied to existing leaseholds in the case of all holdings of a rent of £50 and under, and of all holdings not exceeding 50 acres in extent, whatever may be the rent. Secondly, the crofter tenure will be conferred upon all existing small holders throughout Scotland—that is to say, continual security of tenure at a fair rent fixed by the Land Commission established under the Bill, who have powers of revision every seven years. This tenure will be conferred upon yearly tenants when the Bill passes, and upon leaseholders at the end of existing leases. The third point is this. The formation of new holdings under the tenure in the Bill is made possible by agreement, and also by the system of compulsory tenancy which I have described. The Crofters Commission is to be succeeded by the Land Commission, or Court, and the Congested Districts Commissioners are superseded by the Commissioners of Agriculture for Scotland, one of whom is to be charged with the special duty of supervising small holdings. The present annual income of £35,000 of the Congested Districts Board will continue to be applied to the congested districts, but it will be applied by the Commissioners of Agriculture. These Commissioners are authorised to expend an additional sum of not more than £65,000 per annum upon the purposes of the Bill. There will be three Agricultural Commissioners, including the Commissioner for Small Holdings. The principal changes in this Bill, as compared with the Bill of last year are as follows:—The Land Commission, or Court, is confined to judicial functions. Administrative powers and duties are given to the Commissioners of Agriculture for Scotland, and the Land Commissioners are thus enabled to act as arbiters when land is taken compulsorily, and on other occasions when it seems desirable that administrative action should be subjected to an appeal to a judicial body. Full restrictions are placed upon the exercise of compulsory powers for the taking of land for the purpose of new holdings. Land forming part of a holding or farm not exceeding 150 acres is not to be so taken when it is occupied by a person who has no interest in any other farm; and, secondly, when the letting value of the land or the farm of which it forms part is reduced by the taking of the land, power is given to the Commissioners to pay compensation to the landlord if his land is taken compulsorily; and that compensation is fixed by the award of the Land Commissioners. Then the preferential claim of the Commissioners in the case of the bankruptcy of a landholder who is indebted to them for advances is omitted, and the claims of the Commission and the landlord will therefore be concurrent. One further question may be asked "Why apply these principles to small tenants and not to large ones?" The answer to that is, because it is the small tenants who suffer most under the present system. It is the small holders who are being absorbed under the present system to the injury of the common good. For the last twenty-five or thirty years there has been a continual effort on the part of the small farmers of this country to obtain more complete protection for the improvements of their interests in the farm they occupy. In large farms where the farmers pay high rents they are fairly secure. No landlord would be likely to part with the tenant of a large farm, if there be such tenants in Scotland, paying £3 and £4 an acre for the land. Such tenants are difficult to replace. The legislation of the last thirty years has all been in the direction of protecting the small farmer. The Agricultural Holdings Act gives considerable protection to the interest which the farmer has in his farm, but whether it produces a stable equilibrium is a matter of opinion. The expensive and elaborate procedure under that Act, even cheapened and simplified as it was last year, is least beneficial to the small tenants, and that is the reason for the application of this Bill to small farmers alone. It is not to be supposed that those who are responsible for this Bill contemplate the immediate division of all large farms into small holdings. The best expert opinion on the subject is that the best system is the production of small and large farms—a mixture of both kinds in every district in the country. That is precisely what the present system does not produce. It is the men on the small farms who produce labourers for the large farms. It is from the small farmers and the crofters that the large farmers will in the future come. It is country blood that invigorates our town population. You will not get men to live in the country districts if they are denied the chance of a living, of making a home for themselves, and of independence. The crofter class and the yeoman class are the foundation of our social fabric. That is another reason why the Government propose to deal with their case. But the Government recognise that this is only a small part of a much larger question. There are land laws, railway rates, and the great expense of the sale and transfer of land, which press very heavily upon our present land system. But however small a part of a larger question this reform may be, it is important to look at the question as a whole. What we suffer from is not merely that in some parts of the country land is going out of cultivation; we are suffering from the decay of rural life. If it is desirable to encourage the formation of small holdings it must be done under such conditions as will secure some prospect of permanence, and money must be spent under conditions calculated to call out some responsibility from those who are helped and those who are interested. The experience in other countries goes to show that the small holding, to be prosperous, requires not only education, but organisation. In appointing Commissioners of Agriculture in Scotland no reflection is intended or cast upon the work of the Board of Agriculture in that country. Some expression has been given in Scotland to the fear that under this change which i proposed, under a separate organisation, Scotland will not be so well off as she is under the present administration. It has been suggested, in the first place, that there may be a difference of policy between the two Boards in regard to the question of Canadian cattle; but everybody knows that that question is regulated by statute and can only be altered by Act of Parliament. It has been further suggested that under such a change protection of the flocks and herds in Scotland will not be so complete as it is at present; that the traffic over the border will be difficult to regulate, and so forth. These fears have no firm foundation. There are two Local Government Boards, one in Scotland and one in England, but I have never yet heard that Scotland is less well protected than she would be if under one administration. It is simply a matter of adjustment and, let me add, of expense. It can easily be shown that there would be great practical advantage to Scotland in this change, but this is not the time to show it. For all these matters—for the supervision of small holdings, for the general supervision and help of agriculture in Scotland, for the consideration of such questions as the encouragement of forestry, you may depend upon it that we shall require separate administration in Scotland. For the solution of these problems, not only the time of Parliament is required, but also the brains of men who are thinking out these problems. But the real need and the real demand, I believe, in Scotland is that there should be a real effort by Parliament to deal with these matters. Hence the proposal of this Bill for the establishment of a Board of Agriculture, which shall have the general supervision of the whole subject. This Parliament is generous in its outlay for many purposes, and generous in its outlay, also, for the development of British dominions over the sea. From no outlay, in my humble judgment, will you reap a richer reward than from the expenditure involved in the carrying out of this measure. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to encourage the formation of Small Agricultural Holdings in Scotland, and to amend the Law relating to the tenure of such Holdings (including Crofters' Holdings); to establish Agricultural Commissioners for Scotland; and for other purposes connected therewith."—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): It is quite evident from the exordium of the right hon. Gentleman that he was fully conscious, in bringing in this Bill, that he was dealing with a very large and important problem. He has led us to understand that rural depopulation was the difficulty which he meant to put an end to, at any rate so far as Scotland is concerned. The right hon. Gentleman was also conscious, I think, that there was a certain absurdity in bringing in a Bill of this character to apply only north of the Tweed. He must admit that the conditions of farming in the lowlands of Scotland and in the rest of this island are practically identical.

MR. SINCLAIR: I made no such admission.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the right hon. Gentleman did not say so, he might have said so in far stronger language than I have inadvertently put into his mouth. Anybody with even the most superficial acquaintance with the facts of the case knows that the difference in farming between Berwickshire and Northumberland is incomparably less than the difference in farming between Berwickshire and the crofting counties in Scotland, or between farming in Northumberland and farming in the south of England. Therefore, I ask any hon. Member who considers this Bill not to consider it as a Scottish Bill at all. If we estimate the triviality of the public money devoted to carrying out the Bill, it is indeed quite evident that the Bill in its present shape will do very little good to Scotland and no good at all to England. But the principles which are embodied in the Bill, if they are accepted by the House, will, in the first place, necessarily extend to the whole of the island, and, in the second place, will necessarily involve, not merely an enormous increase of the wretched £65,000 a year which it is proposed to give to the Scottish farmers, but will involve an enormous expenditure of public money for the extension of the principles south of the border. Therefore, let everybody who is interested either in the land system or the financial system of this country remember that this Bill is one which they must imagine in their minds to extend thoughout the whole of this island. The right hon. Gentleman spoke with a certain suppressed and indignant surprise of the fact that our towns are increasing very much faster in population than the rural areas, and that a large number of the rural areas are even decreasing in the number of their inhabitants. Of course, that is true. It is the inevitable result and the foreseen result of our existing system. For my own part I am one of those who have always said that the abolition of the Corn Laws was a necessary and inevitable, and, with some qualification, a benefical change in our system. But everybody who either opposed the abolition of the Corn Laws or favoured them must have been, unless he was an idiot, perfectly conscious of the fact that the abolition exposed agriculture to all the difficulties of foreign competition if foreign competition should arise, and that it was deliberately intended by its authors to stimulate that great growth of the manufacturing population which I view without dismay or regret, because I recognise it is the only possible mode by which the population of this country can largely increase or augment its wealth to meet the great Imperial needs with which we have to deal. But to come down to this House and talk as if these were unexpected and tragic results is really ignoring the whole theory of free trade as expounded by Mr. Cobden and his successors, who always recognised that we were to be more and more dependent, both for food and for raw material, on foreign countries, and that the progress in this country in wealth and population was to be found in the increase of our manufacturing population and of our great urban centres of industry. Do not let us talk as if this was an unexpected fact. It is a known and foreseen fact. Our business is not to try and turn back the inevitable current, but to see that in its process it does as little damage as possible to the whole social fabric. The most we can hope for is that the rural districts shall not decrease. That is a truism which we must accept. I am so far entirely in harmony with the right hon. Gentleman in thinking that if we can mitigate the effects of this inevitable and foreseen tendency we are bound to do so to the best of our ability. Let us consider whether the plan of the Government is going to do any good even to that part of the country for which it is intended. There was one very singular lapse in the right hon. Gentleman's argument about depopulation. He divided Scotland into eight areas, and said, "Look how dreadful it is. The south-west district of Scotland has diminished 5 per cent. in population since the preceding census." Yes, but the crofting counties, whose system the right hon. Gentleman wishes to extend to all Scotland, have decreased to a larger amount.

MR. SINCLAIR: What would the decrease have been but for the crofting system?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps I misunderstood the right hon. Gentleman's statement. Certainly he has misunderstood my argument.

MR. SINCLAIR: No, I have not.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon Gentleman says that we have to deal with the great problem of rural depopulation, and how great that depopulation is we shall see if we look at Wigtonshire and other places. But we waited with anxiety to discover what the crofting system has done to prevent rural depopulation where the system has hitherto been in force. It turns out that the rural depopulation has been greater in the crofting counties.

MR. SINCLAIR: I suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that that has taken place in spite of the Crofters Act. What would have been the decrease if the Act had not been in operation?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The effect of the operation of the Act has not been to make the rural depopulation less than it has been elsewhere. The right hon. Gentleman appealed to experience, and I will meet him on that ground. On the ground of experience I beg to point out that the result of the very Act which the right hon. Gentleman wishes to extend has not been to make the rural depopulation in the Highlands less than it has been elsewhere; on the contrary, it remains greater. There may be other causes at work which have counterbalanced the effect of the Crofters Act, but then do not let us have this crude appeal to experience when it breaks in your hand directly you attempt to make any use of it.

MR. SINCLAIR: Let me tell the right hon. Gentleman the exact figures. In the north division, which includes Orkney and Shetland, Sutherland, and Caithness, the decrease has been 5·13. In the north-west division, which includes the Island of Lewis, the other islands, and the counties of Ross and Inverness-shire, the decrease has been only 1·36. In that district, of course, the Crofters Act also operates. That is a much less decrease than in the Galloway district, where it is 5·08. I think the argument holds good.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, I do not. In the first place, the right hon. Gentleman has revised his argument.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no desire to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman, but what I said was that the decrease in the northern district was 5·13 and in the north-west district 1·36. All these districts are under the Crofters Act. The decrease in the south district is 5·08. Those are the facts.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think that is a revised statement.

MR. SINCLAIR: My right hon. friend took it down; it is on his notes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is a very small matter. In those parts of the crofting areas which the right hon. Gentleman in another part of his speech said suffered from over-population, the population has practically decreased hardly at all. He told us that in the islands there was over-crowding, and it is just that part of the country where he now tells us that the depopulation has not gone on just where it ought to have gone on. And in those other counties where the Crofting Act has been in force it is greater. I am bound to say, on the point of depopulation, the right hon. Gentleman cannot expect to get much comfort from a study of the census figures. Let us consider exactly what this Bill is going to do for the four classes chiefly concerned—the landlord, the large tenant, the small tenant under £50, and the agricultural labourer, excluding, for the moment, the fifth class, the British taxpayer. As regards the landlords, a class which does not meet with very much sympathy always in this House, the method which the right hon. Gentleman is adopting for recommending his measure seems to me very unfortunate. What he has told us is that the number of years' purchase of the crofting holdings has increased, and that there are cases in which large holdings have been turned into small holdings, with the result that the landlord gets as much gross rent for the small holdings as he formerly got for the large holdings, and is relieved of the duty of finding the capital expenditure necessary for equipping the small holdings. I do not know why the landlord should get that, and out of public funds. I want the landlord to have justice; I do not want him to get more than he ought to have. If the right hon. Gentleman thinks he recommends the Bill to us because he says it is going to put straight into the landlord's pocket that which the landlord has not earned by his expenditure, or in any other fair way, that is no recommendation in my eyes. What I want is that the landlord should have justice. What sort of justice is he going to get? At present the practice in the Lowlands of Scotland, more than in England, is that the whole equipment of the farms should be done by the landlord, and that the tenant is only asked to find what may be called the less permanent part of the capital necessary to work the farm. The landlord owns the land and is joint owner of the capital. How are you going to treat that part of the landlord's property which does not consist of the land but of the capital—the equipment of the farm? You are going to hand over to a set of irresponsible Commissioners the determination of what interest or remuneration the landlord is to obtain for the expenditure he has made in equipping the holding. Is there any other capitalist in the world whom you treat in that way, and is it a wise way in which to treat any capitalist? I apprehend the view taken by some hon. Gentlemen below the gangway that there ought not to be capitalists—that all the instruments of capital, land, or whatever they are, should be the property of the community as a whole. That is a perfectly intelligible view. But what really is not an intelligible view is that you should try and work a system of individual ownership, yet take away from individual ownership all that makes it useful to the community. That is really gross folly and injustice. Whether it would be right or wrong for the State to capture every instrument of production is a point I am not going to argue in this House. But what everybody, whether individualist or Socialist, thinks is, that so long as you have a system of private property, so long as you depend on private enterprise for improving and effecting that expenditure without which production is impossible, so long must you treat that property as secure—security is essential to it. The right hon. Gentleman uttered some very wise sentiments with reference to the security of tenants' property, but why are those sentiments only to apply to the tenants? I am entirely with him in saying that the expenditure of the tenant on the non-permanent portion of the capital required for farming should be rendered permanent, and I and this Party have done a great deal to carry out measures making that portion of the capital perfectly secure. The sound principle which lies at the root of that legislation teaches also the lesson that the landlord's share in the capital should be made secure, and the idea of taking that and putting it in the hands of Commissioners to decide its value is a gross injustice to the landlord. As regards the past, and as regards the future, and from a public point of view, this is almost more important, it will of course dry up that source of capital expenditure, is intended to dry it up, and will prevent the landlords in the future from doing in Scotland, above all countries, and the South of Scotland, what they have done in the past—namely, from making the most lavish expenditure upon the permanent improvements and equipment of their farms. In this connection, I am bound to say I think the right hon. Gentleman did not treat the House quite fairly, because in his speech he gave us elaborate accounts of what happened in the Highlands, or might happen in the Highlands, but did not deal with the Lowlands except by allusion and cursorily. But the Lowland problem is the Scottish agricultural problem, and not the Highlands. For reason connected with climate and with the soil, a vast expenditure of capital has been made, not in the Highlands, but in the Lowlands, whence the great food supply which Scotland can produce must obviously be drawn. The right hon. Gentleman talked a great deal about deer forests, and told us that in Forfarshire the amount of land under deer forests had greatly increased. Well, if the land can be profitably used otherwise, by all means let it be used otherwise, if you can find the money to do it. But the sort of land which can be used for deer forests is not land with which this Bill is concerned, or with which the inevitable extension of this Bill to England is concerned. There you have to deal with great Lowland farms, the soil relatively rich, the climate relatively good, where there is already a great system of agriculture in operation, where there has been an immense expenditure on the part of landlords, all of which you are going to treat as if it had never taken place at all. That, I venture to say, is a gross injustice to the landlord; and that is not the worst of the injustices to the landlord. I do not think it is fair to turn a man against his will from a capitalist owner of land into a mere rent-charger on whom has been thrown the responsibility of collecting rents which the right hon. Gentlemen tells us it is too much trouble for the State to collect. He said, "I object to peasant proprietors who buy their holdings out of money supplied to them by public funds, because that brings the State into the direct relation of landlord." Well, is it fair to take arbitrarily a certain number of landlords and say to them: "You have in the past done your best"—that is admitted—"to see that your land is well cultivated; you have freely expended your money on farm buildings, drainage, accommodation roads, and all the other sources of expenditure necessary for cultivation; we mean to take that from you; we mean entirely to deprive you of the right either of choosing your tenant, or of having any relation at all with the land which is still nominally your own except the relation of extracting from your tenant a rent which we shall fix?" I have myself no objection to the compulsory expropriation of landlords if a reasonable public necessity can be shown; it is done every day for a railway. It may be done on a large scale if you think it right and can find the money; if it will really help the cause of social amelioration, it may be done to-morrow with regard to agricultural land. But to say to any class in the community, "We mean to take your capital and prevent your having anything to do with the management of it; we mean to fix the rate of interest to be paid for it, and we mean to turn you into agents for collecting rents," is a gross injustice to that class. I come now to the large farmer. The large farmers in Scotland, in conjunction with the landlords, have done more for agriculture in these islands than any other body of men. They have shown more enterprise, more knowledge; they have started on more original and effective lines; they have led the way, not only in these islands, but throughout the world, in matters agricultural more than any other agricultural class. You are going to say to them in the future, "You are a superfluous and unnecessary class; you are preventing, by your very existence, the cutting up of your three or four hundred acre farms into smaller holdings; we regard you more or less as a nuisance, and we propose, as occasion serves, gradually to expel you from the industry of the land." [Cries of "Oh!"] But you do tell them that by this Bill. I do not think that is good for agriculture. Has the right hon. Gentleman realised that in order to spend £65,000 a year in the creation of small holders in Scotland he is producing insecurity in the whole agricultural interest, not merely in Scotland, but in England? And for what? In order to produce the number of small holders £65,000 a year will call into existence. [A LIBERAL MEMBER: It is only a beginning.] I am not opposed to a small beginning, if it carries no collateral disadvantage. My argument is, that in order to carry out this really petty, trivial, and insignificant beginning you are disturbing the whole of the great industry of the land in these islands; you are making every landlord say to himself, "Shall I not be acting against my own interests and the interests of my children if I spend any capital sum on this farm which may to-morrow, or the next day, at the sweet will of an irresponsible Commission, be carried off with a fragment of this £65,000, and may be assessed at a valuation lower than its market price;" and you are making every large farmer say to himself, "Is it worth my while to take a farm and bring up my sons to agriculture, when I know that at the end of my lease—and leases are not so long in Scotland as they were—I may be dispossessed and a new arrangement with the landlord may become impossible, simply because an irresponsible Commission may say that some of the £65,000 a year should be employed in cutting up my farm, destroying the value of the buildings upon it and putting up others in their place?" I now come to the small tenant who, I presume, is the special object of the right hon. Gentleman's solicitude—the small farmer whose rent is under £50 a year. By his own showing, the right hon. Gentleman is putting the cart before the horse, so far as the interests of the small holders are concerned. He told us that no small holdings can flourish unless we have, first, agricultural education, and next a system of co-operation. But what provision does he make in this Bill for either one or the other of these conditions? Are provisions for education to come out of this £65,000 a year?

MR. SINCLAIR: Education is provided for by the establishment of a Commission for agriculture in Scotland which is intended to co-operate with existing departments.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We all know to our cost that education is not a cheap thing. How is this Commission to act unless it is furnished with the money necessary for the carrying out of its work? Does the right hon. Gentleman contemplate that all he is doing for agricultural education in Scotland is to come out of this £65,000 a year?

MR. SINCLAIR: No, Sir. The £65,000 a year is to be exclusively devoted to the purposes of the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then the right hon. Gentlemen is doing nothing practically for education. And yet he told us in the very speech in which he proposes these drastic measures that small holdings cannot exist without education and without co-operation.

MR. SINCLAIR: I simply said they could not thrive. What is more, I say that the success of the Crofters Act would have been much more marked than it has been if the Governments which succeeded the Government of 1886 had during their twenty years of office done something to add to that Act powers of education and co-operation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am quite ready to admit that political virtue ceased in 1886 and has only just been revived. But then I expect to see its fruits. The right hon. Gentleman says that these small proprietors cannot thrive without education and without co-operation. How does he propose to attain those conditions? By this Bill he brings small proprietors into existence, and then leaves them in a condition in which, according to his own showing, they cannot thrive. It is clear that, if this Bill passes, the right hon. Gentleman will have to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a great deal of money. I suggest that he should approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer at once for the money to deal with a problem which he admits to be pressing and which he says has waited since 1886 for a really beneficent solution. The right hon. Gentleman deliberately contemplates that the small holder of the future is not merely to find, as he does now, the capital required to work his farm, but to find, with or without assistance, the capital necessary to equip his farm, which hitherto has been provided by the landlord. You are going to relieve the landlord of this burden—gratuitously, as I think—and you are going to put it partly on the shoulders of the new holder and partly on your own. I do not know in what proportion. Nor do you. I suppose it depends on the generosity of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But as there is only a sum of £65,000 a year for the purposes of the Bill, it is clear that practically the whole burden of equipping a farm must fall on the shoulders of the small holder himself. Do you really believe that there is in Scotland or anywhere else a large class in the possession, not merely of the not inconsiderable capital required to work a farm of the annual value of £50, but with the money to provide it with the buildings and all the other necessary equipments? I believe the man who has got that amount of capital is a man who can find a farm in Scotland to-morrow, and, what is more, he will be competed for, if he is a good agriculturist, by the landlords of Scotland. That your proposals will injure the landlord is obvious; I believe they will also injure the large farmer and the small holder. As for the agricultural labourer, it is patent that you are going to inflict a great injury upon him. The right hon. Gentleman lamented the fact that so much agricultural work is now done by hired labourers. I have a strong leaning towards the creation of peasant proprietors in places where they can carry on their business successfully. But I repudiate the idea that there is anything discreditable or degrading in being a hired labourer. The whole tendency of modern industry—not in the case of land alone, but even more obviously in other callings—is that a large number of the people concerned should be in the receipt of weekly wages. I wish most earnestly that they should also have some direct pecuniary profit-sharing interest in the work they are doing. But what is quite clear is that in a very large number of industries, and agriculture is one of them, you cannot work productively or with profit, at any rate under our present industrial system, without this combination of great capital expenditure with a large number of workers receiving weekly wages. The right hon. Gentleman is injuring or maiming the landlords and the large farmers, and in so doing he is inflicting a most serious blow on the labourers, for he is depriving them of the best market for their work. For years and years to come, however you may spend this £65,000 a year, the large mass of the agricultural labourers will be still dependent on their weekly wages. Is it not madness to destroy the whole interest of those who are the best employers of the labourer? You cannot do a more cruel act to the labourers of this country. If the right hon. Gentleman had brought in a gigantic scheme for the appropriation of the land of owners and large farmers, and to put every agricultural labourer into a holding which was equipped for him, there would be a system that would be one of great anxiety and one that would inevitably break down, but at all events it would be logical; but to come forward with a Bill which is only the mere beginning of what the right hon. Gentleman hopes will be a new agricultural heaven and earth, and which yet destroys what is good in the old system, is the height of recklessness and folly. For these reasons I think every class of the rural community in Scotland, from the agricultural labourer to the landlord, will suffer by the Bill; and I do not see that anybody will benefit. That is a sufficient indictment against the Bill, but it is not the most severe. I think there is worse behind, because we have to consider not merely the classes interested in agriculture, but the interests of the community as a whole. I ask the House to reflect upon what the Government in their recklessness apparently desire to do. At the very moment when we are straining to the utmost the credit of the country for the purpose of abolishing a system of dual ownership in Ireland, the right hon. Gentleman, with a light heart, proposes to establish a system of dual ownership in Scotland, and perhaps in England also. It will cost from £100,000,000 to £120,000,000 or more to make all the Irish tenants into proprietors, the Irish tenants who built their own houses, who made their own improvements, who are the authors of the capital value of the land they occupy. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] Yes, that is the justification for turning them into small owners, and it is we who established the system for turning them into small owners. This is being done at the cost of £100,000,000 or £120,000,000, and you now propose to take a wholly alien agricultural system in England and Scotland, where the tenant outside the crofting areas in no case built his own house or suitably drained or fenced the land, where all these things have been done by the landlord, whom you wish to get rid of but are afraid to expropriate, and you now seriously desire to establish a dual ownership on that basis, and all the experience of the world allows that such a system is intolerable. No doubt there are distinctions between the dual ownership established by the Crofters Act and the Act of 1881. There were differences between the land system in France before the Revolution, and the land system in Prussia before it was swept away in 1808 or 1809, but all experience has united in saying there shall not be a double ownership which does not carry with it double responsibility. How can any set of men seriously suppose they can turn the clock back and establish a real system upon—I will not call it feudalism, but the wreck of defunct feudalism? You are going to have landlords with debts owed to them but no responsibility, you are going to banish the British landlord, who always had his duties and carried them out, and to turn him into a mere rent-charger, and you think that such a system can continue. Of course it cannot continue; you will have to go much further and do for Scotland what at enormous expenditure we are doing for Ireland, and the whole industry and credit of the country will be hampered to get rid of a system you are needlessly and foolishly hanging round your neck. I cannot imagine anything that gives more food for reflection to all; it goes far beyond the land question; it touches the whole social and industrial system. Any well-thought-out scheme that would encourage a system of peasant proprietorship I would look on with favour; but to keep the landlord, gratuitously taking from him his property and responsibility, putting him into the position of rent-charger to the tenant who has no connection with him but to pay rent, is so wantonly foolish a scheme that I am convinced that when the Government have really time to consider it in all its bearings they will see that it goes far beyond the expenditure of £65,000 a year in a corner of Scotland—that it touches the great social and industrial needs of the country and involves legislation in the future carrying with it expenditure impossible at the present moment to estimate.

*MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness) said that the people of Scotland who had been able to study this Bill during the recess had warmly welcomed it. Landlords and factors were perhaps not in favour of the measure, and a majority of the large farmers, he believed, were against it. But there was another section of agriculturists, he meant the small holders, who perhaps knew the position best, and it was not too much to say that there was not a single small holder in Scotland who was not an enthusiastic supporter of the measure. The Crofters Act, 1886, caused a revolution of the best kind in the Highlands of Scotland, and gave fixity of tenure and fair rents to the crofters; but the usefulness of that Act had been exhausted, and an extension of it was long overdue. The Crofters Act also gave power to extend holdings, but under several most unfortunate restrictions. That, he believed, was the key to the whole situation, because there could not be a greater curse to a man than to be tied to a holding which was to small for him. In the present Bill the Secretary for Scotland had swept away all those limitations and had given power to the Land Commission to extend holdings wherever they could be established without injustice to any of the interests concerned. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition had said that there was great congestion of population in the west of Scotland which ought to be relieved. He himself could point to parts where there were 300 crofters with 100 cotters squatting on the crofts. The Congested Districts Board had done something to relieve those conditions, but not all that might or ought to be done. He believed that the Secretary for Scotland was working on the right lines in his endeavour to solve this very pressing problem. He pointed to the history of the island of Barra, which was notorious for its over-population. The inhabitants of that island had adopted methods which were not generally approved of, but it should be remembered that their condition was deplorable and intolerable. To help the congestion the parish council applied to the county council to put the Allotments Act in force. The county council was not favourable, but appointed a committee, which went to the island and reported strongly in favour of the proposal. But the council never took any further action. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, as Secretary for Scotland, was compelled to intervene, and was able to make a partial solution, and only a partial solution, of the question by the purchase of land. The noble Lord was dealing with a friendly proprietor who was anxious and willing that the condition of the crofters should be improved; but he had to take such land as he could get, and the consequence was that the land he bought was purchased at fifty-six years purchase, and the crofters were settled on it at a price which makes it impossible for them to get a decent living. In another case a friendly proprietor placed a farm at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board. He did not know whether that was the farm to which the right hon. Gentleman referred when he instanced the case of a farm of £120 a year rent. But in that case the rent was £120. Under the new circumstances the landlord got the £120 free of all responsibility, whereas previously he was burdened with the cost of the upkeep of buildings, fences, and the like. On that farm the Congested Districts Board had settled twenty-four families, at a rent of £5 each, and the landlord got his £120 as before but free of incumbrance. The families were prospering, making more than the farmer could possibly do, and they supplied besides ten men to the Army, Navy, and Naval Reserve. He thought that put in a nutshell the advantage of having farms divided up into small holdings. He would like to call attention to the advantage to the districts of retaining the landlords. The influence of the Scottish landlords was usually good, and he was anxious that their influence should be retained for many reasons, but principally because in the Highlands with small holdings and common grazings, and large sporting values it was almost impossible to work a peasant proprietary system. The result of experience in the Scottish Highlands showed that while the tenancy system was a success, that of purchase was a failure. In his opinion the joint ownership system of the Bill was not at all dual ownership in the Irish sense. The absence of a free sale provision made all the difference between the joint ownership of the Bill and dual ownership. The Crofters Act had been a success in the Highlands of Scotland and the social and economic conditions of the people had very much improved under it. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition had spoken about the landlord being a mere rent-charger; but was that likely to be the case? In the Highlands and islands of Scotland were the relations of landlord and tenant better or worse now than they were in 1886? The fact was that there had been a very great change for the better, because before 1886 the landlords were looked upon as the enemies of mankind, and now they were trusted and respected. Before 1886 a Highland landlord, if he were a candidate for Parliament, would not have got a vote from his own tenants; he had contested a Highland county against a laird, and while that laird's tenants were Land Leaguers to a man before 1886, in 1900 they voted for their laird to a man because they respected him, although they were independent of him, and perhaps because they were independent of him. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland had mentioned how the landlords' condition had been improved, and he believed that the rents were better paid than they were when they were uneconomic. He believed that since rents had been revised landlords got more out of their tenants now than before 1886. He was informed that the crofters' rents were if anything better paid than those of the farmers. If the Act had been such a success in the Highlands and islands, where people were apt to forget that it had brought peace, contentment and prosperity, why should it not be applicable to other parts of Scotland such as Perthshire and Aberdeenshire, where similar conditions prevailed? Another proof that the landlords were better off under the crofting than under the farming system was the relative reduction in rents. The reduction in crofters' rents was much smaller than that which had taken place in the rents of large farms, it being 25 per cent. in the case of crofters and 40 rising in some cases to 80 per cent. in the case of farmers. It was a great advantage to the landlord that he should have many tenants who paid him a fair and steady rent rather than a few large tenants who paid irregularly. The Leader of the Opposition seemed to be speaking with two voices, and he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that where there was no demand for small holdings they would not be given. He repeated that anybody who knew the Highlands and islands of Scotland was aware of the fact that in the last twenty years the social condition of the people had improved enormously. Since 1886 in Skye alone 845 houses had been built by crofters, and if they only cost £100 each that meant an expenditure of £84,000. In addition eighteen crofters had become farmers since 1886. He had great pleasure in welcoming the Bill, which would be received with enthusiasm all over Scotland and would have the very best results on the social life of that country.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said that after the exhaustive speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland it became perfectly apparent that in its details the Bill differed from its predecessor. The revised edition introduced to-day showed that while changes had been made, the principles remained the same, and he personally did not think the Bill had been much improved by its sojourn in the limbo of the Scottish Office. In regard to the professed objects of the Bill, viz., the checking of rural depopulation, there would be very little difference of opinion between Members on the Unionist side of the House and the right hon. Gentleman. But when they considered the way in which those objects were to be attained under the Bill, and that its main principles remained unchanged in spite of the fuller information in the Reports of the Small Holdings Committee and the Committee on Depopulation, the difference of opinion would be considerable. In that connection he would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman when it would be possible to give the Return asked for last November as to the number of small holdings in Scotland under a rental of £50. As the Return had not been given the House might take it that the information was not in possession of the Government, and that therefore the Government themselves were ignorant of what was going to be the real scope of the Bill. Everyone fully sympathised with the object of the Bill, which was to check the decline of the rural population, but he would point out that it was perfectly truthfully stated in the Report of the Committee on Depopulation that that decline could not be ascribed to the absence of small holdings, and it could not be said that the provision of small holdings was going to provide a complete remedy for that decline. From the point of view of rural depopulation it was obvious that there would be no material benefit in repatriating a small holder on to land already in use as arable land, if by so doing the land would be depopulated to the extent of a farm labourer. But when it came to the means by which the object of the Bill was to be brought about they were perfectly amazing. The Bill was supported by hon. Members upon two entirely distinct and inconsistent grounds. Some hon. Members said that it was a natural extension and a logical growth of the system of the crofter legislation of 1886, and argued that as that legislation had done so much good it was worth extending. But when asked to do that, the first thing any reasonable man would do would be to ask how the legislation had worked where it had been tried, and, secondly, whether the conditions differed in the districts where it was proposed to extend it from those in the district where the legislation had been operating. It was hardly fair to argue as the Lord Advocate had done in Inverness that the Crofters Acts were to be regarded as entirely beneficial because they had reduced rents 24 per cent., unless it was also pointed out that in other parts of Scotland rents had also fallen. However, he did not base his argument on any good or ill the Crofters Acts had done in the crofting counties. He contended that it could not be said because they had worked well there, that other parts of Scotland and of England—because this could not stop at Scotland—under different conditions would be benefited by similar legislation. The Government were ignoring the whole basis upon which the legislation of 1886 was passed. The Lord Advocate of that day, speaking on the Crofters Bill of 1886, said it was one thing where there was a community established and in possession of their ancestral home to give them facilities for enlargement, but it was quite another to say that every person who had no land and who wanted it was to be provided with it. It was no part of their principle in that measure (the Crofters Bill of 1886) to assign land to every landless person, its purpose was to give certain benefits to existing crofters. If they were to go beyond that they would introduce a state of matters which would not be a benefit but a disadvantage. Lord Dalhousie, who introduced the Bill in another place, pointed out that the Bill was based on the recognition of the particular history and circumstances of the crofter population, and if they went further they would have to go on a very different principle to find themselves face to face with other great difficulties. Sir George Trevelyan, in introducing the Bill, said that it was of a very special character referring to a very special population living in a very special district under very special circumstances, and that if the Bill had been introduced for the Lothians or the eastern counties it would have been not a restoration but an expropriation. That was the first point of view of the supporters of this measure. The second was that the Bill was revolutionary and therefore that it was progressive. He was not sure about the progress. He was afraid that by the Bill they were going to take a short step forward and a long step back. Even setting aside the point of view of the landowner altogether and, looking at the matter from the single point of view taken by the Liberal Party on the question, there could be no dispute as to its retrograde nature. Let them take the first point of hypothec. Landowner's hypothec was abolished thirty years ago by the Liberal Party, as far as rural subjects were concerned. The hypothec over house furnishings, which remained, was denounced by them to-day, and yet this Bill reimposed hypothec, not in favour of the landlord who might have some bowels of compassion, but in favour of the State, which had none. Let them take another point, the point of entail. Hon. Members opposite were always inveighing against entail and saying it was not fair or just and ought to be abolished, but by this Bill they were going to set up 50,000 entails throughout the length and breadth of Scotland. As to the progress in setting up new holdings, his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition had already pointed out that £65,000 a year would not go far—as a matter of fact it might suffice to equip four or five new holdings in each county during a year. To bring forward these proposals to achieve that end, was like burning down the house to roast a pig, and a very small pig too. If they were to review the whole land question it would mean money. If they were to carry a land reform it must mean money, if the land were acquired fairly; and if it were acquired unfairly, it meant robbery. If they were to introduce small holdings and to develop the functions of, not so much the Crofters Commission, but the Congested Districts Board on a national instead of a local basis, then it meant money to put the people on the land. It had meant £5,500,000 in New Zealand. But it meant even more than that, because it meant that some provision must be made to keep the people on the land after they had been put there. The small holdings must be so arranged as to be economic. They must be made to pay, and if they were to be made to pay and the gombeen man was to be abolished, they must not merely put the people on the land, not only educate them in its cultivation—and for that the right hon. Gentleman had made no provision—but there must also be the protection of co-operation, not only between the individuals themselves—whether in substance, as at Blairgourie or in credit as at Scawby and under the Raffeisen system, but between them and the State. Whether that protection was given directly by loans or grants, or indirectly by bounties or import duties, it must be forthcoming; and if not, the experiment was foredoomed to failure. He earnestly called attention to one condition in this proposal. In all these experiments by which small holdings worked in other countries they were based on the permanent and solid foundation of ownership. [An Hon. Member: No, no.] He did not mean ownership necessarily by the small holder, though, as a matter of fact, the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland had not apparently looked at the Report of the Small Holdings Committee when he spoke of the price of purchase being four times that of tenancy, because if he had looked at the Report he would have seen that there were two examples where the calculation had worked out in favour of purchase as against tenancy. But other existing systems rested on the solid foundation of ownership by somebody, whether the large owner, the small holder, or the State. Under the system proposed, the land for the first time was put in commission between three separate parties. It was not dual ownership—it was triple ownership. All the privileges and powers of ownership were dissipated; landlords were being left without any rights, the State was left with no responsibilities, and the small holder had all the burdens and none of the privileges of ownership. Could the Government really expect that that would be a permanent settlement? When they considered the arguments of the right hon. Gentleman and of others in support of the Bill, they were really amazingly inconsistent. The Secretary for Scotland said that the Bill was highly desirable in the interests of the landowning classes; and the Lord Advocate, speaking in Inverness, pointed out that from the point of view of the tenant the Bill was an admirable thing, because, he said, they were not to be in a hurry about land purchase; they were to wait until they had depreciated the landlord's rights.

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs): What I said was that the only sound basis of purchase was to start with fixing fair rents.

*Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: But the result of that is exactly what I said.

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW: I should not suggest, nor do I think, that the result would be to depreciate the interest of the landlords.

*Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON said he was sure they would be very glad to receive that expression of opinion from the right hon. Gentleman. But he was perfectly certain that the construction he had stated was the one put upon language similar to that used by the right hon. Gentleman. But when they considered the support other members of the Government had given to the principle of the Bill, really the most courageous reason advanced was that of the noble Lord who presided over the Board of Agriculture, who said that the Bill was a Government Bill, and therefore he supported it. He was sure that hon. and right hon. Gentlemen who sat on the Treasury Bench wished that there were more Members on the Ministerial side who preferred loyalty to intelligence. But the noble Lord had also said that it was a strong measure to interfere with contractual rights, and that such restrictive legislation was really the first step in the direction of valued rents, and a Land Court, and he doubted whether the people of Scotland were prepared to go as far as that. That was in Edinburgh, at a meeting of the Chamber on Agriculture. The hon. Baronet the Member for South Somerset had spoken last session of the hard-headed Scottish farmers, in whose judgment they placed great confidence. The Chamber of Agriculture was composed in the main of those hard-headed Scottish farmers, and they had passed a resolution condemning the principle of the Bill. But it had really been left to a Committee of a Government Department to pronounce the most emphatic and serious condemnation of it. The Report of the Small Holdings Committee, from which the right hon. Gentleman only differed in a few details—or rather he said there were some differences between it and the Government measure——

Mr. SINCLAIR: Important differences.

*Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: Very well; the House would judge how important the differences were. The Committee said that while approving a proposal for the acquisition of land for compulsory purposes by a central authority, they did not approve of the giving of compulsory powers to hire land, or to interfere between landlord and tenant; that the exercise of compulsory powers of that kind would involve the creation of a system of tenant right under which the ownership of land would in fact be divided between two or even more persons; that experience had proved that the system of dual ownership of land was one which, under ordinary economic conditions, could not be permanent, and would be fatal to the proper maintenance of the holding, to harmony between the landlord and tenant, and to the prosperity of agriculture; and that that system might be suitable under such conditions as prevailed in the crofting areas of Scotland, but was quite inappropriate where rent, duration of occupancy, and general relations between landlord and tenant were determined by ordinary economic conditions. That was the Report of the Committee, and he left it at that. He was sure that they were all desirous of recognising the good intentions of the right hon. Gentleman, and, so far as he was concerned, he did not propose to vote against the introduction of the Bill. But, at a later stage it would have to go through a fiery furnace of criticism; and when it rose again—and he hoped it would rise—from the ashes to which they would certainly try to reduce it, it was to be hoped in the interests of the tenant, of the landlord, of the country, and of the great Party which the right hon. Gentleman adorned, that there would arise a phœnix of an entirely different kind.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said his hon. friend who had just sat down had argued against the principle of the Bill and had not gone into the details of the measure which was causing so much interest on both sides of the House. But the argument of robbery and spoliation used against the Bill came with a very ill grace from hon. Members who represented the landlord Party. In the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, from beginning to end, there was very little which did not command his sincere admiration; the right hon. Gentleman went to the root of the measure; he pointed out, with justice, that the Bill could not stop at Scotland, that it must be extended to England, and when it had gone as far as England, they must consider their whole position with regard to the measure. He agreed with every word the right hon. Gentleman said on that point. The right hon. Gentleman asked them how they were going to draw any distinction between that which was the land—which possibly they might deal with—and that which was capital, namely, buildings on the land. That, he thought, was a very important argument, which had to be dealt with From his own point of view it must be dealt with in the interests of the country, and in the interests of the country only. Much of the expenditure which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded to had been absolutely wasteful, vicious, and useless. In the Lowlands of Scotland farm after farm had been founded on the ruins of numerous homesteads throughout the country. On one estate, near to which he lived when a boy, there were forty small holdings. The landlord came in, rich and generous, according to hon. Gentlemen opposite, bought the land, and expended money lavishly in pulling down the small houses and erecting fine palatial buildings where there were forty homes before. There the farmers lived in affluence, or, at any rate, in very large houses, just as if they were in villa residences. The people had gone; there was no happiness in the land, no life; it was destitution and desolation from beginning to end. Wheresoever they went they saw that wasteful expenditure of landlords on buildings, which were, in many cases, solely for their own profit, aggrandisement, and glorification. Let them open up the land to the people, who would find the money to put up their own buildings. They did not want much—they desired to live not in palaces, but only in a small way, if they were not at the mercy of the landlord class. The right hon. Gentle man had spoken not merely to the House but to the country at large; and they, on their side, were speaking to the country, and while they felt that this measure would not, perhaps, be settled there, it would be settled by the country at large, before a satisfactory solution was arrived at. Agricultural labourers in Scotland really were badly off; and there was not a single word in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman who introduced the Bill which suggested that there was anything degrading in an agricultural labourer's taking work for reasonable hire. Still, it was better for the State that a large portion of the men settled on the land should be independent of any master whatever. It was one of the most deplorable things to see enormous masses of men absolutely dependent on some other person for a living and wages. His hon. friend had alluded to New Zealand, of which he had some experience, and he could assure him that the land settlement had done a great deal for that country. As to the question of compulsory powers, of which so much was made, he did not think that, if the Bill was carried in anything like its present form, those compulsory powers would be very often required to be put in operation. He thought the Government might very well, in the due exercise of their judgment, make some concessions where they did bring in those compulsory powers; but he was quite satisfied that when the country began to discover that there was such a widespread feeling in favour of this proposal, no body of men would stand up against doing something to relieve the present state of affairs. Sixty-five thousand pounds was a beginning. It was a question not of money, but of credit, and the credit of this country was good enough for all purposes at the present time.

*MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars) said he would not venture to say anything about the details of the measure, but he rose for the purpose of welcoming the Bill as outlined in the speech of the Secretary for Scotland. He welcomed it, on behalf of those with whom he was associated, for two reasons. In the first place, he agreed with the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland as to the extreme importance of having the larger proportion of the people of England and Scotland employed on the land. He looked with considerable misgivings and apprehension to the crowding of the people of the country in large factories in the towns and urban areas and the consequent weakening of the physical and moral fibre of the people. Having regard to the evils enumerated by the Secretary for Scotland in connection with the depopulation of the rural districts, he was not concerned whether it was worse in the north or in the south of Scotland. It was sufficient for him to know that it was going on, not only in Scotland but in England as well. Having regard to that fact and the effects of a direct character which it had had upon the people of Scotland, he was in favour of the Bill as something which would tend in the direction of setting up such a condition of things as would make the stream of population revert from the towns to the country, and thus produce a more robust people. His second reason was that he represented in the House, in a special sense, town dwellers, and in that capacity he also welcomed the Bill. And why? Because they knew that the rural population was being drained from the country districts where the people had been getting their living under more wholesome conditions. Those people were being driven into the towns, with the result that they increased competition for employment. The Leader of the Opposition had said that all this was inevitable and foreseen by Cobden and Bright, but he ventured to say that nothing of the sort was the case. On the contrary, the speeches of Bright and Cobden and the early free traders, so far as he had been able to follow them, foretold, not the depopulation of the country districts, but increased prosperity for the town dwellers and the agricultural population as well. So far as his reading on the subject went, he found that not only was the depopulation not the result of free trade, but it did not follow free trade for at least a generation. There might have been a flow of the rural population into the towns after free trade, but he thought he was right in saying that it did not happen to any great extent, and the filling up of the towns which had come about during the last thirty years or thereabouts, was something not incidental or peculiar to this country, but which had been general all over the civilised world. In America, Germany, France, and almost every other country, the people had been attracted from the dull life of the country into the glamour and glitter of town life. In those countries which most nearly approximated to our own, so far as free trade was concerned, they did not find that steady flow of the people from the country districts into the towns. In Holland and Denmark, which were practically free trade countries, far from there being any flow of people from the rural districts into the towns, the flow had been, with the exception of Copenhagen, from the town into the country districts. Therefore the flow of the people into the towns which they all agreed was an evil, had not come about as the result of free trade, but as the result of more general causes, some of which he would venture to point out. There were three real reasons. First of all there was the throwing open of this country to the importation of corn and other food products from abroad. That was one of the reasons why the population had drifted away from the agricultural districts. The second reason was quite as potent, and it was the unfair railway rates which were applied to English growers, and that had quite as great an effect in crippling the farming industry in Scotland as in England. If anyone would take the trouble to look up the figures in regard to the competition for the markets of Glasgow and the surrounding urban population, they would find that the people who were sending produce from Hamburg, and from other places across the North Sea, were getting their goods conveyed more cheaply than the people who were growing agricultural produce about the southern counties of Scotland. And thirdly, there was the application of science to the farming industry. He had before him a report of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, referring to the decline of the agricultural population of Great Britain, and it stated that as the result of careful investigations it had been found that in almost every county in Scotland there had been a great reduction of casual as compared with permanent labour, and it was generally agreed that the use of labour-saving machinery was the main cause. And so they arrived at the conclusion that one of the causes why more people were not engaged in farming was the greater intensity of toil on the one side, and the application of science in the shape of machinery on the other side, which produced a great displacement of labour. He thought they ought to take steps like those which were taken in Denmark for the setting up of colleges for the encouragement of scientific farming, and he understood that that was provided for in the Bill. [Opposition cries of "No, no."] At any rate, he hoped it would be one of the features of the Bill that they would be able to spend public money in the best of all possible ways, namely, in teaching our own people how to apply their labour and capital so as to produce the best results. He gathered that some such proposal as that might eventually be grafted upon the Bill. He understood that there was to be fixity of tenure, and they all agreed that it would be an advantage that the person who possessed an economic advantage over another should not be able to come down upon him and turn him out of his holding at any time he liked. Then there was another important principle, viz., fixity of rent. He did not quite gather what the right hon. Gentleman meant on that point, but he understood that there was to be a rent court with power to fix rents which would be undisturbed for seven years. He thought he was right in assuming that the rent court would not be able to increase any rents unless there had been something put into the holding by the capital of the landlord. For those reasons he welcomed the Bill as a step in the direction of dealing with a pressing and urgent public question. He gathered that £65,000 a year of public money was to be spent in this way for Scotland. That, as the Leader of the Opposition had pointed out, was only a small part of what would be required if the same principle was to be applied to England and Wales as well as to Scotland. Therefore, it was very important, if public moneys were to be spent, to see that they should get full value. It appeared to him that they were not going to get full value for this money unless the freehold of the holdings thus set up was vested in and owned by the public. He looked upon the experiment, therefore, with some misgiving in that respect; and his misgiving had not been in any way lessened by the tenour of some of the speeches already made in favour of the Bill, for he found that several hon. Gentlemen had stated that they welcomed the Bill because it was going to do something to buttress up landlordism. [Cries of dissent.] That was what he understood, though they did not put it so bluntly. He gathered from what they said that they were in favour of the Bill because the multitude of small holders to be set up would be a bulwark to the large landowners. He did not like large landowners, and he did not think the small landowners were going to be an improvement on the big ones. He believed that landlordism was a great monopoly, and that the land ought to be owned by the public. He did not put that forward as an abstract or theoretical expression of opinion. He believed landlordism had been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Therefore, although the Bill dealt, perhaps, with a practical question in a way which had been forced upon the Government by the exigencies of the situation, he looked upon it with considerable apprehension. He had not consulted the colleagues with whom he usually acted, but for his own part he looked upon the measure with so much misgiving that if his colleagues were agreeable he would be willing to take the responsibility of moving its rejection on the Second Reading, unless there was some provision made that the public money to be spent, and the machinery to be set up, were not permanently for the interest of landlordism, but for the interest of the whole people, and unless there was some prospect that ultimately the land would be dealt with in such a way as to be of use to the whole people, instead of, as now, for the use and enjoyment of a few.

Mr. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said the hon. Member who had just sat down had stated that he was little acquainted with agriculture. That circumstance had possibly tinged the latter part of his speech in regard to the land system of the country. He had a great deal of sympathy with some parts of the hon. Gentleman's speech. Every one deplored the depopulation of the country districts, and the aggregation of people in the urban districts. That was a very obvious evil, and if this Bill were an honest attempt to overcome that difficulty it would receive thoughtful consideration, and it would have more merits to commend it than he and his friends on that side of the House could find at present. This was not the only country where there was depopulation of the rural districts. Even in Denmark there had been a considerable falling off in the rural population. In Denmark they had the very system of agricultural education which was needed here. There was also a system of bounties on agricultural produce—a form of protection for agriculture which hon. Members opposite would probably deplore. In this Bill there was no provision for agricultural instruction whatever. The Departmental Committee recommended that there should be a system of agricultural education, but no attempt was being made by this measure to give it in any shape or form.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Hear, hear.

Mr. COCHRANE said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman agreed with him in that. The Bill was one of considerable magnitude, and hon. Members who had spoken had all concurred in saying that if it was passed for Scotland a similar measure would ultimately be introduced for England. It would be for the convenience of the House before the Second Reading of the Bill if the Government were able to intimate when the Bills for the other parts of the United Kingdom would be presented, in order that they might see what differences existed in the different parts. He thought there was ground for complaint in the fact that the right hon. Gentleman before introducing such drastic legislation on a question of such magnitude had not ordered some form of inquiry. There had been no demand for legislation of this kind in Scotland. The country was peaceful and quiet, especially in the Lowlands. Previous to the introduction of the Crofters Act there was great discontent and distress in the crofting districts, but at present there was no unrest of that kind in Scotland. The Agricultural Conference was a representative, and not at all a

Conservative, body; it had very Liberal tendencies. That Conference carried by an enormous majority an Amendment condemning the Bill brought forward last year. If the proposed legislation was confined solely to crofters he was sure that it would be regarded with considerable sympathy by many hon. Members. All acknowledged the part the crofters had taken in the history of the country. They made excellent soldiers, as those who had been connected with the Army could testify. They had had their struggles like other classes of the community. They had been the victims, to a considerable extent, of the policy of free trade. In the Highlands and islands of Scotland a thriving crofter population depended for their livelihood on the kelp industry. On account of the free-trade policy manufacturers of potash were able to import other materials, with the result that the price of kelp declined. [AN HON. MEMBER: It brings a fair price now.] He was glad to hear that. The difference between the crofter and the Lowland tenant was very marked. The crofter in the old days had no security of tenure and was liable to be turned out on short notice.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): Forty days.

MR. COCHRANE said this Bill would apply to a different class—the leaseholders in the Lowlands. In ninety-nine cases out of 100 the leasehold tenants had a tenure of nineteen years. A tenant paying £50 a year, having a lease of nineteen years, had absolute fixity of tenure during the period of his lease. He was on an absolutely different footing from the crofter who was liable to be turned out of his small holding, and the steading which he had put up at his own cost, at forty days notice. In the Lowlands farm buildings had invariably been built at the cost of the landlords. Most of the fencing had also been done by the landlords. The right hon. Gentleman, without any inquiry whatever. and without having gone into the question, except in the most cursory manner, proposed to take away the capital the landlord had invested in farm buildings and hand it over to the Commissioners or the tenants. If the right hon. Gentleman expected that capital was going to be invested under those conditions he would be disappointed. The present system of land tenure in Scotland had done much for the country. Could the right hon. Gentleman point to any country in the world where there was a more prosperous system? [Cries of "Yes."] He ventured to say that it would be difficult to do so. Go where they liked, they would not see farms better tilled, or crops more magnificent than those grown in the Lothians. He asked the right hon. Gentleman himself if he thought that all the high cultivation which was to be seen in Scotland could have been carried on if it had been divorced from the capital of the landlord? It was impossible. He ventured to say that what had made Scotland so thriving had been the intelligent interest, skill, and care of the landlords in the management of their estates and their close association with their tenants. It could not be expected that landlords would take that interest in their farms, in the modern machinery required for up-to-date cultivation, in acquiring the knowledge of the chemical composition of manures, if they were to be told that an irresponsible body could come down and carve certain portions out of their farms in order to make small holdings. That would produce a dangerous element of uncertainty in the management of land. Then, in addition, there would be the cost of equipping the small holdings carved out of the farms. At present he believed that some £10,000,000 a year were spent in improving farms under present conditions; but if this Bill passed that capital would be diverted from Scotland. The Act of 1892 was passed with the view of endeavouring to remove the difficulties of agricultural labourers in obtaining small holdings, but it had proved a failure, notwithstanding honest attempts to put it in force. To a large extent the reason for that failure was that it did not pay ploughmen and other labourers engaged in agriculture, whose wages were extremely good, to take a small farm. The Report of the Departmental Committee showed that in the very district of Kilmuir to which reference had been made, the small crofters had not become owners of the land because they were afraid of the rates and taxes that would be demanded from them. His friend Sir Charles Renshaw, who sat so long in that House, had given a description of what had happened in Renfrewshire. He did everything he could to put the Act of 1892 in force, and, by advertising, to induce people to come forward to take up small holdings under the County Council. But his efforts were in vain, the real difficulty being that the men supposed to be likely to take up a small holding were paid good weekly wages. What was wanted was an Amendment of the Act of 1892, and not the fanciful attempts proposed by this Bill to deal in an arbitrary fashion with the land. The recommendations of the Departmental Committee, based upon careful investigation, should be adopted. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland said that his plan was not a system of dual ownership. They had seen the operation of that in Ireland and were going to spend £150,000,000 in abolishing it. But the right hon. Gentleman was going further. He was proposing to establish a triple ownership—the farmers, the agricultural labourer, and the Land Commission, and none of them would have complete control over the land allocated in small holdings. He was not surprised that the Departmental Committee had passed the scathing criticism that the plan of the Bill would not be permanent, that it would lead to endless disputes and to the cessation of all responsibility on the part of the landlord. The dual system of ownership had not cured depopulation in Ireland, nor had all the Land Bills passed by the House of Commons. In 1897, when tenant right existed, the population of Ireland was 5,412,000; in 1881 it was 5,174,000; in 1901 it had fallen to 4,500,000—a fact which they all deplored. The right hon. Gentleman had alluded to the crofting parishes in Scotland, but the same depopulation had taken place there. The report of the Crofters Commission showed that the population in those parishes in 1881 was 155,000, whereas in 1901 it had fallen to 142,000.

Mr. WEIR: In the Island of Lewis, the population has increased considerably.

Mr. COCHRANE said he was very glad to hear it, but he always thought that that was one of the most congested districts in Scotland, and where the crofters paid their rents with the least facility. His hon. friend was constantly asking the House for assistance for those crofters. However, that did not affect his argument. In Great Britain two-thirds of the total number of farms were under fifty acres, and in Scotland there were 46,000 holdings with a rental under £50. The right hon. Gentleman proposed that in each of those 46,000 holdings the Land Commission should step in and assume the functions of the landlord. He thought that that would impose upon the Commissioners a very serious duty. Might he ask what would be the cost of the Land Commission? He had endeavoured to work it out and could not make it less than £100,000 a year, including the salaries of the Chairman, the Commissioners, and assistant Commissioners, travelling expenses, etc.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Nothing like it. I expect it would be nearer the cost of the Crofters Commission.

Mr. COCHRANE said that when they came to administer one-third of the farms in the whole of Scotland it would be necessary to set up, not only the Commission, but sub-Commissions and deputy sub-Commissions all over the country. Under the scheme propounded by the right hon. Gentleman what would be position of the unhappy landlord? Landlords were very much like other classes of the community, some were good and some were bad; and he thought that they were entitled to a certain amount of sympathy in the difficulties with which they had to struggle in the last few years. There was plenty of land for sale in Scotland at the present moment, and he submitted that if the right hon. Gentleman wished to make experiments in a scheme of small holdings the opportunity lay before him. Of course the Government would have to purchase the land and administer it if it was intended to plant out upon it deserving small farmers. It would be a mistake to deprive the tenants and landlords of Scotland of the interest they had in their business, and to make the landlords mere rent-chargers bereft of all control over their estates. The small farmers would not have the capital to keep the buildings in good repair in the same way as the landlords did at present. In the crofting counties the tenants had been satisfied with accommodation of a very humble character. No doubt the crofters wanted more land, and under the Bill there was an extension of their power to get it. But what would be the position of the large farmer who might find the eyes picked out his farm to benefit the crofters, who naturally would not take the worst but the best bits? The landlord might not be unwilling to sell, but the difficulty was that the small man would wish to get the parts of the farm which were most profitable and to leave the large farmer with the unprofitable portion and the obligation to keep up the steading. Such a course would be in the interest neither of the tenant nor of the landlord. If he could see in the Bill any really honest attempt to settle the population more successfully on the soil, and to provide a useful gradation of holdings, he would welcome it, but he failed to see in it anything which would carry out those objects. The hon. Member for Leith Burghs, a supporter of the Government, had indulged in no exaggeration when he described the measure as a crude form of Socialism.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said it was satisfactory in some respects to find that both Parties admitted, first, that depopulation was going on in Scotland to a grave, if not alarming, extent, and that the depopulation of the rural districts was an evil to the community at large; and, secondly, that no attack could be made on the Crofters Act of 1886. For in none of the speeches delivered had there been a note of hostility to that Act, which had been administered with signal ability, and in the spirit of its founders. It had been a conspicuous success for Scotland, and parts of the Highland area had been almost completely transformed from a derelict into a prosperous country. The Leader of the Opposition was an adept in the prophesying of disaster with regard to this kind of legislation, but similar prophecies had been uttered before. In addressing the House to-day the right hon. Gentleman had said no word in condemnation of the Act of 1886, but when that Act was before a Liberal House of Commons his tone in regard to it was exactly the same as was his tone with regard to the present Bill. The right hon. Gentleman then, in an impassioned passage, said—

> "I tell Her Majesty's Government and I tell the House that the legislation which they have initiated and which may pass into law this session will, whatever else it may do, undoubtedly dry up every source of prosperity derived from the security of capital. From this time forward, money which has been poured out like water on these barren wastes—"

the right hon. Gentleman was then dealing with the Highland areas, and defending the proposition which to-day he denied—

> "will be poured out no more, and the very spring from which it came will be dried up."

There were other choice passages, which were interesting to the historical student as showing that, whatever were the facts, prejudices still remained and found renewed utterance despite the teachings of experience. The right hon. Gentleman in 1886 also dealt with the four classes of people who he thought would be endamaged by the Act, but the evil that he prophesied had not occurred. There was hardly a landlord in the Highland area who if left to himself would not bless the day when the Crofters Act was passed, since when he had never huckstered for his rent or arrears, had enjoyed good relations with his tenants, and had found the capital value of his estate and even the sporting rentals, increased. Yet now they were told that the landlords were to be reduced to mere rent chargers. How sad for duke and earl who owned property in the Highlands! For the Duke of Sutherland, for instance, who owned a county, how sad was his case! It was that kind of mock sympathy that the House was asked to evoke —for those who were affected precisely as people were affected by the Act of 1886. One thing he must emphatically correct. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the landlord in the Lowlands had expended large sums of money on the improvement of his property. He did not think that that was quite the universal rule. But presuming that all that had happened, how could it be said that the landlord would receive no benefit from his expenditure, when the Bill provided that in fixing the rent every contribution he had made to the value of his property should be taken into account by the Court? Let them assume that the landlord had expended large sums of money in the improvement of his property. That would be taken into account by the Rent Court in fixing the rent, as well as all other contributions of the landlord to the value of the property. Nothing was to be taken from the landlord. On the contrary, the landlord was secured in a strong position in regard to his property, and in the event of the violation by the tenant of the statutory conditions for the payment of rent the landlord could resume possession. What the Bill established were those two beneficent provisions without which content and progress on rural holdings were impossible—security of tenure and a rent fixed by an independent tribunal. It was said also that the landlord was to be reduced to the position of a rent charger. Why? Because he was to be deprived of the arbitrary power to evict a man from the holding which was part of his life's history. There was simply taken away from the landlord a certain power which, in the case of the landlords of Scotland, certainly had not been exercised. It was said that the large farmer was to be treated as a nuisance. Yet the Bill only declared that there might be tracts of land which could be judiciously used in establishing a system of small holdings. It was said that the proposed Commission would be an irresponsible body. It might safely be assumed that the Commissioners, in dealing with land, would have regard for all the interests concerned. It was said that the small holder could not thrive unless he was first taught the principles of co-operation. The Bill was pretty heavily loaded already; and the Government thought they were doing very well as a beginning when they established the small holder in an independent position, enabling him, in the first place, to bring up his family in comfort, and, in the second place, to equip himself, or, at least, those who were to follow him, with a better knowledge of the principles of agriculture. As for the agricultural labourers, if they were polled to-morrow they would give an answer by 99 per cent. in favour of the Bill. The present prospect of the agricultural labourer was to pass a time in what some called a state of servitude, and in his old age to be reduced to poverty or to seek refuge in a town. By this Bill the agricultural labourer was given the opportunity of obtaining a small holding where, even in his old age, if he did justice to the soil, he could bring up his family. It was the homestead idea that underlay the Bill. Its aim was to provide that the homes of the race should be found, not in the slums, but on the soil.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): There is no intention on our part to interfere with the First Reading of this Bill, and I only intervene because of some remarks made by the Lord-Advocate. It is remarkable that in all the land debates that take place in this House none ever take place without some hon. Members talking as if all the landlords of the country were dukes and earls. My right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition said that some part of the Land Act of 1886 had not been justified by example. He then proceeded to show that the Crofters Act had not prevented depopulation which the Government desired to prevent. The Lord-Advocate has defended this measure and sought to show that it would remove the evil upon which he said both sides were agreed. Of course both sides are agreed as to the evil of depopulation and as to the desirability of giving those who have either no land or insufficient land an opportunity of getting what they want. But the reason why we are criticising this Bill, and will do so in all its stages, is not that we do not admit the evils, are always ready to admit the evils—but that we do not approve of the remedy proposed. The Lord-Advocate said we had not learnt by experience. I say the experience of this country in land legislation ought to have taught the Government that they would have been wiser if they had proceeded more slowly and had proposed to set up landholders in a manner less fantastic. The Lord-Advocate said the object of the Bill was to establish these men on suitable holdings, to give them suitable homes and homesteads. I know something about the system of agricultural holdings in other countries besides Scotland, and I know that the number of persons who are desirous of getting these holdings and who have sufficient capital to equip them is very small. I listened to the right hon. Gentleman with blank amazement when he told us that what the Bill sought to do was to establish in every district three classes of occupiers, the large occupier, the small occupier, and the labourer.

MR. SINCLAIR: What I said was that the best expert opinion favoured a gradation of farms ranging from small to large holdings.

MR. WALTER LONG: That is exactly what I said.

MR. SINCLAIR: No. The right hon. Gentleman's words were "sought to establish."

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not think that I shall be guilty of any very extravagant assumption if I assume that that was one of the objects of the Bill. I defy the right hon. Gentleman or any member of the Party opposite to adopt that principle and apply it to the agricultural land of this country. There is only one way in which small holdings can be successfully established, and that is by selecting districts which lend themselves to that purpose. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear, hear!"] But that is not the policy put forward by the Secretary for Scotland. I will not now discuss this matter in detail. I think it is much to be regretted that in a debate which has been so fairly conducted from a practical point of view on both sides of the House, the Lord-Advocate should have descended once again to adopt that form of argument which is the most cowardly that can be adopted in this House, namely, when you are defending a particular class and criticising suggestions made on behalf of the owning class, to drag in as a reason for the passing of the Bill that it is to prevent the eviction by the landlords of the tenants from their holdings. This has been dragged into the debates on the Land Tenure Bill for England, but the charges of eviction were never proved, nor has inquiry revealed a condition of things to justify the Bill on such ground. I quite believe the Government have a sincere desire to deal with the difficult question of maintaining occupation ownership of small farms, but they appear to be blind to the lesson taught by experience that a system of dual ownership cannot go on without subsequent legislation; that once established it does not deal with the evil sought to be removed and creates another evil alongside for which the further remedy of making the tenants into actual owners is required. It is only in that way that you can give the tenants real security and plant in them the confidence and the desire to succeed without which they are not likely to prosper. We believe that this Bill is based up on unsound principles, and will require very considerable amendment before it is workable. We do not on this side of the House intend to offer any further opposition at this stage, but we do intend during the subsequent stages to criticise the Bill closely, and to do our best to amend it, not for the reason given by the learned Lord-Advocate, but because we believe that it is not a practical remedy, that it proceeds on wrong lines, and that it will do great injury to the landowners who have taken a keen interest in the development of their estates, whilst it will not give any advantage to the tenant and the labourer. For these reasons we shall do our best during the subsequent stages of the Bill to carry Amendments which will be likely to make it an effective instead of a most defective measure.

* MR. MORTON (Sutherland) considered that the opposition to the Bill had been exceedingly weak, and it all came to the one proposition that they ought to purchase and not rent. A scheme of purchase might be all very well for Ireland, but they could not afford to go on in that way, and therefore he considered that it was a fair business-like proposition to fix what was a fair rent. If at a later period some of the tenants or the Government liked to purchase, by all means let them do so. He hoped that the Bill would be allowed to pass with the view of making an endeavour to settle this question in the interests of the people. The tenants would be

quite willing to pay a fair rent under a system which gave them fixity of tenure. If the House refused that principle the people might eventually insist that the land should be returned to the people from whom it ought never to have been taken, and returned upon very different terms from those which were proposed in the Bill. With regard to the Bill itself, he thought it would have been much better if the crofter districts had been dealt with separately. He would be able to bring before the House at a later stage actual cases where at the present time the tenants had no fixity of tenure, and where good tenants had been driven off the land because the landlord or his agent wished to replace them, sometimes out of spite, but mainly for sporting purposes. What had been said by the Chamber of Agriculture did not matter so much, because it was mostly a chamber of landlords and Tories. Fixity of tenure was wanted in order to stop the depopulation of the Highland counties. The vast stretches of land in Scotland which were at present devoted to sport ought to be let to tenants at a fair rent. In Sutherlandshire there were nearly 400,000 acres of land ear-marked by the Deer Forests Commission which ought to be allotted to the people for extension of crofts, new crofts, and small holdings, which should include cottars and other workers. He appealed to the Government not so much in the interests of Party but in the interests of the country to see the Bill through this session. The Crofters Act 1886 had been so successful that they might extend it without fear.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said he had been particularly struck with the speech of the hon. Member for the Blackfriars Division of Glasgow, who began by commending the Bill and the Government and ended by blaming the Government rather considerably for bringing in a Bill which was so favourable to the landlords. Of course they all knew what were the opinions of hon. Members below the gangway in reference to the land, and he was not sure that a good many of them would not prefer those opinions, impossible though they thought them, to some of the proposals which were occasionally put forward by hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Secretary for Scotland had stated that the object of the Bill was to attract capital to the land. He thought the Leader of the Opposition had shown that the exact reverse would be the result, and that instead of attracting capital the Bill would have a tendency to drive capital away from the land.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair and the Lord Advocate.

SMALL LANDHOLDERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To encourage the formation of Small Agricultural Holdings in Scotland, and to amend the Law relating to the tenure of such Holdings (including Crofters' Holdings); to establish Agricultural Commissioners for Scotland; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 122.]

GREAT WESTERN, LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN, AND RHYMNEY RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland) asked if the Instruction standing in his name was in Order.†

*MR. SPEAKER: The Instruction of the hon. Member is not in order for the same reason that I ruled it out of order last year. Any proposal to impose upon railway companies the liability of adding third-class sleeping carriages to their trains should be done by a general Act. Particular companies should not be selected for this purpose, but it should be made applicable to all railway companies in like circumstances.

---

† "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to whom the Bill is referred to consider the desirability of inserting a clause requiring the companies to provide sleeping accommodation for third-class passengers in all cases where sleeping accommodation is provided for first-class passengers."

Mr. MORTON said that it would be quite impossible for him to get a general Act passed, only the Government could do that; on the other hand he desired to apply his proposal to some of the railways only. But, before the Great Western, the London and North Western and Rhymney Railway Companies were given further powers he thought he had a right to ask that certain grievances should be redressed and that the Companies should act fairly to all classes in exercising monopolies which they could not enjoy without the consent of Parliament. He asked that all classes of railway passengers should be treated alike without any undue preference or favour. In the case of passengers travelling long distances he thought that the third-class passengers should be provided with the same facilities as to sleeping accommodation as the first-class passengers. Last session he was hopeful that that question would be favourably considered by the great railway companies, but he gathered from information which had been supplied by the Board of Trade that the railway companies now refused to consider any redress whatever of that grievance. That being so, there was no other course for him to adopt than to move the rejection of the Bill. It might be a wise policy occasionally to throw out a railway Bill so as to let the railway companies understand that before they could obtain monopolies from Parliament they had to adopt fair regulations, and treat the different classes of passengers somewhat alike. The reply of the companies had generally been that first-class sleeping carriages did not pay. As far as he could ascertain first-class passenger traffic never did pay anywhere in the United Kingdom, and the whole of the profits from passenger traffic came from third-class passengers. Fifty years ago third-class passengers were treated worse than animals, but they were now being treated much better. The companies had found out that the better they treated the third-class passengers the more profit they made. He did not say that sleeping accommodation should be provided except upon proper notice and at reasonable rates, but on trains where there were two sleeping coaches there was no reason why one of them should not be available for third-class passengers. He did not wish to do any harm to decent railway companies; on the contrary, he preferred to give them all the assistance he could in carrying on their business in the best possible way, but he had no alternative but to take the line he had done. The railway companies might say that they did not care for the hon. Member for Sutherland; he did not care much about that, but the companies might find that just when they wanted assistance they would not get it. He remembered that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham when at the Board of Trade said with regard to railway companies not only that people had the right but that it was their duty on the Second Reading of railway Bills to have their grievances brought forward and to insist as far as they were able upon Parliament seeing fair play done between the companies and the people. He thought the duty of the Board of Trade was to deal fairly with the railway companies, but they should recollect that there was a British public. He hoped they would have the assistance of the Board of Trade in getting this matter settled. They granted railway companies great powers and the public had a right to ask for something in return. He hoped they would not have to proceed so far as to throw out a Bill which, no doubt, had some good points, and he trusted that railway companies would see the advisability of giving reasonable and proper provision in the direction he had indicated. He moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.), in seconding the Amendment, said the promoters had not done him justice when they declared that his reason for opposing the Bill was that he happened to be in favour of the Barry Railway Bill. He happened to be a resident in the district affected and he was the representative of the workers who resided there. He wished to explain to the House that this scheme was simply on a par with many other schemes which had been produced previously to tap the Sirhowy and Rhondda Valleys. The present joint scheme of the Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies covered practically the ground of a railway scheme which was promoted from time to time by various promoters in the years 1882, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, and 1888. In 1888 a Bill was promoted by the Taff Vale Railway Company to connect Cardiff with the Sirhowy and Monmouthshire valleys. In the same year the Great Western Railway Company had a Bill to connect their system with another railway at Cogan. By agreement of 14th March, 1888, both schemes were withdrawn, and the Taff Vale and Great Western Companies agreed never again to promote similar schemes. The Rhymney Railway Company in the same year obtained the sanction of Parliament for a scheme connecting their railway with the Sirhowy Valley, but the Great Western Railway Company made arrangements with the Rhymney Railway Company not to construct the railway, one of the features of the arrangement being that the Rhymney Railway should receive a payment of something like £10,000 a year, and the Rhymney Railway Company accordingly abandoned the scheme. That was a serious statement to make, and he would be glad to hear what the promoters of the Bill had to say upon it. If a railway company failed to exercise its Parliamentary powers in consideration of a monetary payment by another railway company, that was a reason why Parliament should not again entrust it with such powers. In 1890 the Cardiff Railway Company obtained powers to construct the railways authorised in 1888, should the Rhymney Railway Company not do so, but for some reason or other they allowed the powers to lapse, and the district had been without improved railway accommodation ever since. In 1905 the Barry Railway Company promoted a Bill to serve the same objects as the dropped scheme of 1888, but that Bill was rejected on the opposition of the Great Western and Rhymney Railway Companies, who said that the line was not required. If the line was not required then, upon what ground did the company say that the line was required now because they happened to be the promoters? His main reason for opposing the Bill was that the monopoly enjoyed by the Rhymney Railway Company in their respective valleys, and by the Great Western Railway Company, had been in a marked degree used to the disadvantage of the public. So much did the public of the western valleys of Monmouth object to the treatment which had been meted out to them by the railway companies that they had formed a council of gentlemen from county councils, chambers of commerce, and other public bodies, representing altogether upwards of 100,000 people, to consider the subject of railway facilities with the view to their improvement. He asked the House to pay attention to that fact, because if the railway companies had used their powers properly there would have been no necessity for those public bodies to form a railway council for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the Great Western Railway Company to do what was right. So far as the valley line was concerned, it was one of the best paying bits of railway which any company could have. The mineral and iron and steel traffic amounted to 6,000,000 tons a year, to say nothing of passengers. He himself resided seventeen miles from Newport, and the journey on the Great Western Railway occupied substantially over an hour. The journey to Nantyglo on the same railway, a distance of twenty-one miles, took an hour and a half when the trains were up to time, but they were frequently late. He understood that one of the arguments which would be used was that the Great Western Company had put on an improved service. It was true that the trains had been altered, but the service was still inferior to what the travelling public might fairly expect. The speed of the trains was what it was about thirty years ago. Although the Great Western Railway Company had obtained powers, they had done very little to provide better train connections up the valley. The majority of the stations were just as they were forty years ago. It was because of the monopoly which the companies enjoyed that the public were left helpless and entirely at their mercy. He thought he was entitled to ask the House to reject the Bill altogether on account of the manner in which the railway companies had treated the public. He wished to refer to another side of the question. Not only was the local passenger service bad, but the connections for trains to the north were so arranged that travellers had to start an hour or an hour and a half earlier than would be necessary if greater consideration were given to the convenience of the public. Parliament, as the custodian of the public interest, ought not to give a monopoly to any company which in the past had misused its powers in the way the Great Western Company had done. The Chairman of the Great Western Railway Company, at the half-yearly meeting in February this year, said—

> "I think I told you—I am sure I told you—six months ago that we should not move again in South Wales unless our interests were distinctly threatened. We all hoped that when the wisdom of Parliament decided that the Great Western and Rhymney Joint Bill, and no other Bill, was necessary, the question might have slumbered, at any rate, for a short time; but the action of the Barry Company obliged us to put forward a Bill for the protection of our own interests, and I think the shareholders will, at any rate, be glad to see this—that we are in partnership at this time, not alone with the Rhymney Railway Company, but with our good friends who were our opponents last year—the London and North Western Railway. We are working together with a view, of course, to minimise the expense, and to increase the advantages to the shareholders."

If that was why this company came to the House, he hoped that the House would not lend itself to such a policy. After all, the public had rights, and no railway company which had abused their monopoly powers should come to Parliament and ask for an extension of those powers. As to the position of workmen who had to travel by rail to get to their work, it was true that there were workmen's trains morning and evening, but if the men travelled during the day they were put into workmen's carriages and made to pay the full ordinary fare. Moreover, no attempt was made to heat the trains, and many of the carriages were quite open. Taking all these things into consideration, and because the Rhymney Company had received a payment of something like £10,000 a year from the Great Western Railway for abandoning a scheme which Parliament had authorised them to construct, he asked the House to reject the Bill as a warning to all railway companies that Parliament would not be trifled with by parties who had been given monopoly powers and who had abused them at the expense of the public.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Morton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. BALDWIN (Worcestershire, Bewdley) said that the object of the Bill was a very simple one. It was to make a line eight and a half miles long from Cross Keys to Newport to connect with the Western Valleys Railway, and the Sirhowy Railway of the London and North Western Company with the Rhymney Railway at Caerphilly, making a new route between the Western Valleys and Cardiff, Penarth and Barry, which would be nearly five miles shorter than the existing route. It would be a business and not a pleasure line. There were a large number of collieries served by the Great Western Railway; and if the line was made it would help to develop the district. The Great Western Railway now carried over 3,500,000 tons of coal to Newport, and 1,750,000 tons to Cardiff. The eight and a half miles between Newport and Cross Keys was the most congested part of the Great Western Railway traffic, and from 40 to 50 per cent. of the overtime worked on the Great Western Railway was worked on that length. The directors of the Great Western Railway Company believed that the making of the line would greatly facilitate the traffic. Remarks had been made about the passenger traffic. The Western Valleys Railway was twenty-one miles long, and there were on it twelve stations. The new line would give a direct route to Cardiff, instead of going through Newport, so that the people in the Western Valleys would profit to that extent.

What occurred last year was that three Bills were before the House—the Great Western and Rhymney Railway Bill, the London and North Western Railway Bill, and the Barry Railway Bill. The London and North Western Bill and the Barry Bill were both rejected before the holidays; and the Great Western and Rhymney Bill was also rejected, chiefly on the opposition of Lord Tredegar, because if that Bill had passed he would stand to lose on his Park Mile, which now produced above £13,000 a year. The hon. Member for South Glamorganshire had complained about the slow trains. In 1902 and the early part of 1903 the Great Western Company tried the experiment of running trains without stopping at all the stations; but the result was such an uproar in the Western Valleys that the company had to revert to the old system of stopping at all the stations. A deputation from Newport and the Western Valleys waited lately on the chiefs of the department, and asked, not for express trains, but for additional stopping trains; and on 1st March, the company met their views, and put on two new trains each way. Inquiry was made as to the through passenger traffic from Paddington, and it was found that in twelve days there were only three through passengers by the 6.10 p.m. fast train from Paddington to the Western Valleys. He wished he could say something to ease the mind of the hon. Member for Sutherland as to sleeping accommodation. During January on the Fishguard route, in the one train which carried a sleeping carriage the average was one passenger per day, and on the other line on which sleepers were run the average was two passengers per day. In spite of what the hon. Members had said, he claimed that the Great Western Railway Company had for many years never been unmindful of the comfort of the general public. It seemed to him that the fair course to pursue was to send this Bill and the Barry scheme upstairs when an impartial Committee would decide upon their merits.

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) said that the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was lucid and clear and showed very important interests which were involved in the consideration of the Bill. It was nothing less than a mineral Bill, a proposal to connect the port of Cardiff, with the Western Valleys and the other Monmouthshire valleys; to give, in short, an outlet to the port of Cardiff. Its object was to get an outlet at the port of Cardiff for the coal raised in the Western Valleys, and the other question which had been raised that evening had very little to do with the matter. The authorities for the great shipping port of Cardiff regarded the Bill as one which would very materially add to the interests of the port, and the people there would feel deeply aggrieved if hon. Members, in order to avenge a wrong, real or fancied, were to reject it. He had no doubt that the hon. Member for South Glamorgan had ground for complaint and had a real grievance. It must be remembered, however, that the object of a railway company was to connect not only the up train but the down train, and if in one particular instance a train was retarded by the desire of the inhabitants of the western valleys their interest must be considered as well as that of an hon. Gentleman who was coming to London. He thought the hon. Member for Bewdley had made it clear that the Great Western Railway did their best to meet the desires and wishes of those whom they existed to serve. The local authorities he believed supported the measure, and he did not think the attention of the House ought to be distracted from the main issue by the side issue which had been introduced. He had put down a notice in opposition to the Barry Bill with a view to securing that this Bill and the Barry Bill should both go before the Select Committee, and he hoped that that object would be attained. If a joint line was established he believed that the interest of the community would be best served, and he hoped the House would assent to that arrangement.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham) supported the Bill. During this session and last session the President of the Board of Trade had been appealed to to do something to get rid of the overtime in consequence of which many accidents were caused on railways. About 5,750,000 tons of coal were brought from the western valleys down to Newport and there was great delay at that point.

There was indeed greater delay at the Newport siding than on any other part of the Great Western Company's system. He was sure that his hon. friend, after considering the facts that railwaymen had to work so many hours and that this Bill would do something to do away with excessive overtime, would withdraw his opposition. As a Member of the Cardiff Corporation he wanted to see the trade of that city revived and more work given to a larger number of men. He appealed to hon. Members who had blocked the Bill to allow it to pass.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport) hoped that the Bill would be allowed to go to a Select Committee. He did not intend to criticise either the merits or the demerits of the measure, but he drew attention to the lack of connection between local trains and main line trains in South Wales referred to by the hon. Member for South Glamorgan. In these and other cases of which complaint had been made to the Board of Trade the scheduled time for the local trains was so fixed that they missed the connection with the main line express trains by a few minutes. The railway companies would do well to see whether they could not reduce to the lowest possible margin the grievance thus arising. As regards the question of third-class sleeping accommodation he, last year, had given certain pledges as to the action of the Board of Trade on the ground that it was thought, judging by the growing feeling in the House, that something should be done by the companies. This grievance had been placed before the representative of the railway companies in the House and an opportunity had been taken to see the general managers of the two lines whose Bills were then before the house. The general managers of the various railway companies had communicated their decision to the Board of Trade on the 3rd October, wherein it was said that, after fully considering the suggestion mentioned by the hon. Member, the heavy pecuniary loss that would be incurred induced the companies to come to the conclusion that they would not be justified in providing the suggested accommodation. Had the third-class passengers a fair claim to consideration in the matter? In the opinion of the Board of Trade their claim was undeniable. The railway returns for 1905 showed that the passenger receipts were £36,000,000, of which the third class contributed 80 per cent. or £29,500,000. Railway companies and managers objected to third-class sleepers, because they said that they would not be profitable, but he thought they ought to take into account how profitable the third-class traffic was to them. The opinion of the Board of Trade was that the railway companies in their own interests ought to take a larger and broader view. They had submitted no data to the Board of Trade which showed that the traffic would be unremunerative. Provided that the demand existed there could be no question whatever that third-class sleepers would be profitable investments for the railway companies. He had estimates and plans which showed that. One first-class sleeping car accommodated ten passengers. So that, taking a journey from London to Glasgow, in one sleeping car there would be ten passengers each paying 58s. for his fare. The earning capacity of that sleeping car was altogether about £33. Then let them take a third class sleeping car of the same size. Nobody would doubt that that coach would comfortably accommodate, with, of course, overhead sleeping arrangements, twenty passengers. No third-class passenger would object to pay 5s. for that accommodation for the journey. There would, therefore, be twenty passengers in one sleeping car at 5s. each and the fare to Glasgow would be 33s. So that the earnings of the third-class sleeping car would amount to £38 as against £33 earned by the first-class sleeping car. The Board of Trade had not the opportunity of helping the hon. Gentleman that night in his desire to obtain that accommodation save by expressing their sympathy. The instruction which his hon. friend wished to move was out of order. If it had been in order the Board of Trade would have accepted it. He now suggested to his hon. friend that he would benefit the cause which he had at heart if he withdrew his Motion and allowed the Bill to have its Second Reading. He hoped he would take cognisance of the fact that the Board of Trade would press to have the experiment tried in order to see if it was as they thought it was, a paying proposition. That was not an unfair proposal. Although they were sometimes charged with making expensive changes on railways they had not done so, and he would not advocate the third-class sleeping car experiment if he was not absolutely convinced that it would open to the company not a losing but a profitable trade. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman representing the North Western Railway would believe him when he said that he had only spoken in the way he had because he thought the railway company in this matter were standing in their own light.

*Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said that on the last occasion when this question was before the House, they had a promise from the right hon. Member for Epping that he would have this matter considered by the railway companies and would give them the result of those considerations. But he had not done so. He would therefore like to know what the railway companies intended to do. He was glad his hon. friend the Member for Sutherlandshire had the sympathy of the Board of Trade with regard to third-class sleeping accommodation. It appeared to him that the railway companies of this country would do nothing whatever for the third-class passengers in this direction until they were compelled. Therefore he hoped the Board of Trade would continue to press this matter until the railway companies did what was required. The hon. Gentleman the Secreary to the Board of Trade had to-day given the House some interesting information. He had pointed out that a third-class sleeping car would earn £38 odd as against £32 odd earned by the first-class sleeping car. He was sometimes inclined to ask himself when he travelled on the tube railways why it was that railway companies did not sweep away first-class carriages altogether. Third-class carriages were generally full, whilst the first class were usually empty or almost so. This was a very real grievance. His hon. friend the Member for Sutherlandshire had to travel to and from his constituency several times a year, and he was not at all surprised that the hon. Member was anxious to have third-class sleeping carriages, not only for himself, but for the thousands of other passengers and specially commercial travellers, who frequently travelled long journeys at night sitting in cramped and uncomfortable positions in third-class carriages unable to take any rest and who had to attend to their business the next morning. It was all very well for passengers who could command the first-class fare. It was not uncommon to find first-class carriages occupied by only one or two passengers while many first-class were absolutely empty. The hon. Member for Worcester had stated that he was unable to answer his hon. friend with regard to the question of sleeping cars because on his line the question was so small a question. If it was so very small he was surprised that the hon. Member was not able to answer so moderate a request. He would again urge this question upon the railway companies and the right hon. Gentleman, who promised on the last occasion to do his best to give them some information. Now was the opportunity and that was the time for him to tell them all about it. They had had a statement from the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Trade and they now wanted one one from the directors of the company. He was glad to hear from the hon. Member the Secretary to the Board of Trade that this matter would not be allowed to rest where it was.

Question "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL (By Order).

Order for Second Reading read.

*Mr. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said he had been long enough in the House, and was sufficiently cognisant of the difficulties in the way of getting private Bills through Parliament, not to move willingly against the Second

Reading of a great railway Bill, but there were occasions when considerations of public policy were more important than even a very important private Bill. The facts which had led him to intervene were not disputed. The directors of this railway company sanctioned last year a payment of £200 to the London Municipal Society. The society had during the last six months been promoting the candidature of Moderate candidates for the London County Council, and had enabled large sums of money to be spent in assisting such candidates over and above the legitimate expenses permitted by Act of Parliament. In fact, the society was as partisan an organisation as could well be imagined. The fame of it was ringing throughout London, and was apparently unknown only to the directors of the London and North-Western Railway Company. According to their present story, he understood that the directors were ignorant of the partisan character of the association. They regarded it apparently as a society for expressing a platonic love of economy. It was wonderful how they managed to deceive themselves, because the society was not a new body. It had at two previous elections been the main society assisting Moderate candidates. Its treasurer was Mr. Percy Harris, the Chairman of the Moderate Council; its President, the Duke of Norfolk. Not only so, but the Duke of Norfolk, on 15th December last, issued, in the name of the society, the manifesto which was regarded by the whole Conservative Press, and the Moderate candidates, to be the manifesto of the Moderate Party. Moreover, on its Committee sat Mr. Lawrence, Deputy-Chairman of the London and North-Western Railway, and Mr. Guinness, a director of the railway, was a Moderate candidate at Haggerston, and profited by the cartoons of the society to whose funds his railway had contributed. Of all this the directors apparently remained in ignorance until he put down the Motion which stood in his name. But he was not quite so certain of that, and he would like to call the attention of the House to a speech made by Lord Stalbridge on 15th February, at a general meeting of the London and North Western Railway Company. In that speech Lord Stalbridge spent some considerable time in discoursing on the evils of municipal and national trading. He went on to say that—

> "He wished them not to relax their efforts as ratepayers, but to do the utmost they could to check the reckless expenditure which had been going on. It was all the more necessary that shareholders should use every exertion in their power to ensure candidates being returned to the various councils pledged to economy; and as regarded London in particular, where the rates had gone up by leaps and bounds, they had not only the opportunity to look to theirs, but to the general interests of the ratepayers."

There was, in fact, a partisan spirit throughout the whole speech, and it was hardly surprising that a large number of people thought that the subscription made by Lord Stalbridge was made in the same spirit as his speech. To his mind this was not a question primarily for the shareholders of the Company. Their treatment, he thought the House would agree, was assuredly inconsiderate, and was resented by many of them. This thing was not done openly by the directors. It was put down, as they now understood, among "sundry payments not classed." There was a secret-service fund to which apparently the ordinary shareholder had not access unless by accident he happened to hear of any expenditure under it. Luckily some shareholder heard that this subscription had been made, and he wrote and found out that it had been made from the secretary. He then wrote to the *Economist* newspaper, and consequently the whole thing came out; otherwise, it might never have been known. For his part he objected to leaving the shareholders to fight a question of this sort against a great and wealthy corporation. It was a question of public policy. It could not be confined to municipal politics alone. What the directors had done they could do perfectly well by the same argument in every municipality in the country, and both in municipal politics and every kind of national politics as well. The rates were not the only pecuniary interest of the companies; there were taxes as well as rates. He would take what seemed to be an exactly analogous case. The present Foreign Secretary was, until three months before the general election, chairman of the

North Eastern Railway. He and several of his co-directors believed that the maintenance of free trade was necessary to the prosperity of the northern district, and therefore to the railway of which they were directors. On the principle applied in this instance, it would have been perfectly easy for the present Foreign Secretary to have subscribed out of the funds of the railway company to the Free Trade Union, a political organisation which supported Liberal candidates with the same unfailing regularity as the London Municipal Society supported the Moderates. He thought the House saw that if they admitted this principle, great companies might, whether secretly or openly, provide funds for Party organisations; there was no limit to it. He thought the House would probably feel with himself that money which was lavished on politics with the sole aim of gaining more money, was a dangerous element in politics. This country had not yet suffered from the employment of corporate funds in politics. In America, railway and other corporations operated in the political market just as they did in the commercial markets. They subscribed largely to Party funds, they paid candidates, they bought votes, they got obedient assemblies to pass laws, and obedient Judges to administer those laws. Let the House not be so foolish in their pride at their present political purity as to suppose that these were not dangers in the future for themselves unless they took precautions against them. He was opposing this Bill because he wished the House to protest against the beginnings of that American system. Their chief business that night was to make absolutely impossible a repetition of such action as that to which he had referred. The course he proposed to take was that of moving the Resolution which stood in his name—"That no Bill can be satisfactory to this House which confers increased powers on a railway company created by Act of Parliament, which has subscribed out of its corporate funds to a Party organisation." He did not desire to destroy the Bill if it could be helped, but he would have no scruple in asking the House to do so if it were necessary. He would not withdraw unless in the first place the £200 was refunded to the shareholders, which he believed the directors were ready to do. He thought that the House ought to ask for security against the recurrence of such a thing, and the security should be of an absolute kind. A promise of the directors would not be enough, because they could not control their successors; but if the directors did not wish to repeat this action, he did not see why they should not accept a clause in Committee by which they would engage to pay no public money out of corporate funds in future to any candidate or any society which in any way promoted any candidature in any national or municipal election. What they wanted was not an apology from the company. Anyone who was found out could always apologise. He desired no violent or vindictive action, but there must be absolute security against the repetition of such an experiment.

*MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel), in seconding the Motion, thought it was the duty of all reasonable people, and among reasonable people he included hon. Gentlemen opposite, to protest against this innovation in English political life. If it were true that railway companies desired to support candidates in favour of economy, let him point out that the Liberal Party was pledged to economy. He was not aware, however, that the London and North-Western Railway Company had gone out of its way to subscribe to the funds of the Liberal Party. It was quite clear that the subscription was intended to go into the funds of one Party—not to a non-political body, and it was to that that he took exception. Was it fair that railway companies should come to the House and ask the majority to put them in a position to gain profits by giving them a monopoly when those profits were used against the policy which the majority represented? For a public company to be allowed to apply the funds of its shareholders for the benefit of any political Party was to lower the purity of public life.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'no Bill can be satisfactory to this House which confers increased powers on a railway company created by Act of Parliament which has subscribed out of its corporate funds to a Party organisation.'"—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said it was a very difficult thing, in a House of Commons constituted as at present, to stand up and take the part of any railway company. As an hon. Member stated the other day, even a railway company was worthy of having justice done to it. He appealed to the House to consider the Bill honourably and fairly on its merits. When the hon. Member for Derby brought forward his Motion the other day he said that he was quite sure the House would accept his statement, and hon. Members cheered that statement. He now asked the House to extend to him the same generosity and accept the statement which he was about to make as one made in the full belief that it was true. He would place briefly before the House the facts connected with this vote of £200. He would like first of all to remind the House that the present Bill involved the expenditure of £2,750,000, a great deal of which would be spent in wages. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh."] As to the vote of £200, in answer to a question from the Board of Trade a letter was sent to the Board stating that in the spring of last year the London and North-Western Railway Company were approached by the London Municipal Society, who stated their object to be to secure the return of men, both on the borough councils and the London County Council, who would recognise the importance of the exercise of the strictest economy. The circular also stated that the movement was absolutely non-political, and the support of the company was asked on the ground that in common with other railway companies they had termini in London and were deeply interested in the matter. The increase in the rates of railway companies had been enormous. In the case of the London and North-Western Railway Company alone the rates had increased in the last decade from £368,000 to over £600,000. Therefore, they considered they were fully justified in contributing out of their corporate funds to support a movement having the object stated, and being, as they were assured, of a non-political character. They accordingly subscribed the £200, which was paid in the month of July. The whole matter was considered by the board last Friday, which was the first opportunity they had had of considering the subject since it was raised in the House, and the board came to the conclusion that, although on the information before them in July last they were fully justified in the course they then took, yet subsequent events had proved that the relations existing between the society and Party politics could not be denied. The board had always rigidly refrained from subscribing a single shilling to any political object, and they had decided to relieve the corporate funds of that subscription, and to pay it out of the pockets of the directors themselves. The presence upon the board of men of political creeds different from that of the Opposition ought to have shown that when the board subscribed the money it was not intended for any political object. He repudiated, in the strongest possible way, the unworthy insinuation made by the hon. Member for the Elland Division that the directors purposely and designedly hid the charge from the public.

*MR. TREVELYAN: What I said was that there was no way in which the public could find it out.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said the hon. Member went much further than that.

*MR. TREVELYAN said that if the right hon. Gentleman could show how any ordinary shareholder could have found out in the ordinary way that the money had been subscribed to the society he would be quite satisfied.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said that was a different matter altogether. The point he took exception to was that the hon. Member insinuated that the directors designedly hid the fact of this subscription from their shareholders. He warmly repudiated that. It was not placed under a separate heading because there was no separate heading for such items—all subscriptions to literary institutes or other similar institutions being put under "sundry expenses not classed." It was the invariable practice of the board to put under that heading anything which did not come under the special headings set forth in the statutory form of accounts. There was no intention, and never had been any, of concealing the fact that this subscription had been made. At the time it was made the board did not think they were subscribing to any political object at all. In the past his board had never subscribed a shilling to any political Party funds, and after the explanation he had given, which to him had not been a pleasant task, the House might take it that there was not the smallest likelihood of such a subscription being continued. In the past the Board had never subscribed a shilling to any political fund.

Mr. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District): I challenge that statement. The directors subscribed to the Free Labour Association for the purpose of securing contracting out of the Employers' Liability Bill in 1893.

Colonel LOCKWOOD said advisedly that his company had never subscribed to any political object in the past, and they would not do so in the future. After the explanation he had given he hoped the House would allow the Bill to pass.

Mr. CLEMENT EDWARDS characterised the statement of the right hon. Gentleman as perfectly amazing. In 1893 the Board subscribed £25 to a body of men calling themselves at that time the Free Labour Association. [Cries of "That is not political."] They were precisely the same body of individuals who had carried on their operations on previous occasions under the variety of titles which, under the chairmanship of the present Duke of Devonshire, who was then Lord Hartington, had been dealt with by the Royal Commission that inquired into the Malversation of City Funds. That body carried on operations of a purely political character under no less than forty-eight *aliases*. The Royal Commission in 1887 reported that the system of subsidising so-called political associations, such as the Metropolitan Ratepayers' Protection Association, was calculated to mislead Parliament by the appearance of active organisation of public opinion which might have no existence. The Metropolitan Ratepayers' Protection Association was one of the *aliases* under which these individuals carried on their operations. As a matter of fact they carried on their operations in London in connection with municipal politics under no less than thirty-two different names, amongst them being the Free Labour Electoral Association, the Free Labour Association, the National Free Labour Association, the British Labour Protection League, the United Building and Allied Trades Council, the Metropolitan Ratepayers' Association, the National Conference of Working Class Representatives, the United London Working Men's Association, the Patriotic League, the Representatives of Trade, Labour, and Friendly Societies in the East End and West Ham Districts, the East London Water Consumers' League, the British and Foreign Arbitration Association, and the Society for Promoting Social Concord. As the Free Labour Association they issued a manifesto on the eve of the County Council election in 1895 in denunciation of the Progressive policy of the Council. At that time also they sent to every Moderate member of the County Council, and to every Moderate candidate a letter in the following terms—

> "Gentlemen,—We send herewith copy of a manifesto which has been very extensively posted throughout London. The execution of this has involved the Association in considerable expense and we are making an earnest appeal for funds to carry on the work. If you can see your way to favour us with a donation or a regular subscription it will both encourage us and help forward the movement. Yours faithfully, W. Collison."

In 1893 the London and North Western Railway Company subscribed £25 to this organisation, and yet it was suggested that the organisation was not of a political character. In 1893 the Association presented a petition to the House against the picketing clauses in the Conspiracy Act of 1875. A great number of the signatures to that petition were procured from school children in East and South-East London, who were given packets of sweets. He spoke of what was within his own knowledge. It was this organisation which organised a demonstration in Trafalgar Square, purporting to represent working men, to pass a resolution in favour of a contracting-out clause being inserted in the Employers' Liability Bill. One of their heaviest subscribers was the hon. Gentleman who was at that time the Chief Whip of the Conservative Party. The London and North Western Railway Company, which subscribed to a body of such a character, was not a company that ought to be looked upon with favour by the House. For that reason he hoped the House would reject the Bill.

*MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said the hon. Gentleman who introduced the subject had raised a debate of no little interest. It was one which from many points of view passed rather beyond the region of ordinary Party controversy. He could not help thinking it certain that the House as a body would consider, after the statement made by his right hon. friend on behalf of the London and North Western Railway Company, so far as the present Resolution was concerned, there could be very little doubt as to the decision to which they should come. The right hon. Gentleman had gone a great deal further than he himself would have desired that he should go. Hon. Members, on whatever side they might sit, would see that there were profoundly important social and political questions underlying the system of preclusion which the hon. Member wished to impose on railway companies. The hon. Member's argument would involve similar preclusion in regard to all limited companies and also upon trade unions. What was the nature of the position on which the hon. Member insisted? Put quite baldly, it apparently amounted to this—that if an election were forthcoming the result of which would determine what political Party was to have the control of the rates, any individuals or corporations who might have to come to Parliament for statutory powers should not be allowed to make their political influence felt upon the persons who imposed and spent the rates but did not pay them. It was not necessary in the least to consider whether the view they might take, or the influence they might exercise, was right or wrong. He was willing for the purpose of his argument to say that the railway directors were entirely wrong and that the Party of municipal reform would in no way reduce the rates. If this principle were adopted that company and similar corporations would be precluded in future from exercising any kind of political influence; it could be easily got rid of. What was the position of the London and North Western Railway Company as a ratepayer? In a very large number of the parishes through which their system ran the company paid from eight-tenths to nine-tenths of the total rates levied; and yet they were in future to have no voice at all in the policy which was to regulate the amount of those rates, or the purposes for which those rates were to be devoted. [OPPOSITION cries of "Hear, hear."] He gathered that the general view on the Ministerial side of the House was that the company should not have any such voice. What had been the change in the last ten years in the position of this railway company which was to have no voice whatever on municipal policy? In 1897 the company paid in rates and taxes £376,000; in 1906 the amount had gone up to £603,000, and there was little doubt by 1916 they should be paying in rates and taxes considerably over £1,000,000. It was conceivable that they should not have any votes, but were they to be put in a position in which they could not exercise any influence at all? In the Blue-book issued in connection with the Poor Law inquiry at Poplar there was a very interesting statement of policy. That inquiry was made by the Government officer appointed by the Liberal Government. In explanation of the policy pursued in Poplar which affected closely the railway company which paid far the larger proportion of the rates, a colleague of the hon. Member for Woolwich declared that the election should be fought on the question of making relief from the rates a substitute for old-age pensions. The proposition being that the rates should be illegally diverted for such a purpose, was a corporation paying a very large portion of the rates to be precluded from supporting by subscription a committee or association formed to resist such a policy? When, further, the guardians deliberately pursued a policy of increasing expenditure in order to show that Poplar needed additional assistance, not for public necessities, but in order to serve an indirect political purpose, was the House going to declare by Resolution that those who paid the rates should not assist in promoting inquiry into such a policy? If the House made itself responsible for such a principle it must be applied, not only to political associations, but to anybody using influence in any election on a political issue, such as trade unions. There were points of analogy as well as points of distinction in trade unions as compared with companies, and if the House resolved not to permit a company to make such subscriptions could it, with consistency, allow the political and pecuniary activity of trade unions? If it was made a distinction that a statutory corporation had peculiar privileges, he was also entitled to say that under the present Government trade unions had also become statutory corporations enjoying very special privileges. Was it an objection to railway companies as such or to any wealthy corporation or body of individuals assisting Party funds for election purposes? Did not many wealthy Liberals make very large subscriptions to political funds in the interest of free trade? Before the House finally adopted the principle involved in the Amendment he hoped they would realise the position in which they would be placed, not only with reference to taxes but also with reference to rates. If hon. Gentlemen opposite were going to commit themselves to the position that no limited company—for the ground of monopoly on which the case was to be put at the outset had been abandoned—should be entitled to contribute a farthing to the purposes of any political association they would have taken a step which was certainly not Liberalism, because taxation and political influence ought to go together.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I do not think the London and North-Western Railway Company will thank the hon. and learned Member for the speech he has just delivered. Presumably he is a supporter of the Bill, but I have never heard from a supporter of a Bill a speech less calculated to advance the interests of a measure than the deplorable and injudicious intervention of the hon. and learned Member. The Bill is one for which, on its merits, there is a good deal to be said, though I do not want to prejudge the questions which have to be fought out before the Committee. But the question of principle raised by my hon. friend the Member for the Elland Division is one which ought to be fought out in the House of Commons. The London and North-Western Company have subscribed a sum of money—very unfortunately, I think, departing from precedent — out of their funds to a keenly-contested, bitter political contest. How do the directors of the company meet that position? They meet it in, I think, the most admirable spirit. The right hon. Member for Epping, with that tact which he always displays on these occasions and which makes his interventions always so acceptable to the House, got up and practically admitted that the action of the railway company was due entirely to a misapprehension by the secretary. I know the right hon. Gentleman well, and I am quite certain that when he makes a statement of that kind it is one that ought to be accepted from him, and I believe the majority of the House are prepared to accept it. The directors went further than that, and said they would pay the money back into the funds. They have practically said that, if they had known this was a political controversy, they would not have intervened. They practically own that they ought not to have used shareholders' money for the purpose of subscribing to a political controversy, and through the right hon. Gentleman they have said they do not intend to do it in future. In my judgment that is a complete and satisfactory answer. Unfortunately there came along the hon. and learned Member, who challenges the whole position. The hon. Member is not a railway director yet, and I do not think there will be any competition for his services after his speech to-night.

***MR. F. E. SMITH** asked if it was necessary for the right hon. Gentleman to interfere with his chances of business preferment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: It is my business to see that the railway companies at any rate do not unfairly handicap themselves when they have got legitimate business to put through as I consider they have. What is much more serious than the intervention of the hon. Member is the enthusiastic sanction he evoked from a champion of railway companies, who is a director himself—the hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London.

SIR F. BANBURY: I beg pardon, I have not said a word.

***MR. LLOYD-GEORGE**: The hon. Baronet has said a good many words, and much more sensibly than he generally does. He has been intervening constantly, and challenges the position of the right hon. Member for Epping by supporting the view taken by the hon. Member for Liverpool. Up to this moment the question has been merely whether the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman could be accepted. I say frankly that I accept the explanation; but the hon. and learned Member has raised another issue and has challenged the House of Commons to declare its opinion upon it; and if that challenge were endorsed by the railway directors in the House, I should have no hesitation with regard to my vote. That is why, before the debate closes, I invite some one who can speak authoritatively on behalf of the railway companies to say whether it is their view that they have a right to use funds raised under statutory powers conferred by the House of Commons for a particular purpose for another purpose —the purpose of political propaganda, either municipal or national. That is a question we have a right to ask before the debate closes. I am sorry for the right hon. Gentleman. He has done his best, but we must really keep him and his co-railway directors in order on an occasion of this sort. I heard the hon. Member say, "Why should they not subscribe; are they not in the same position as a trade union?" No; they are not. If a trade union carried a Bill through this House to give that union a monopoly of the business of a whole district, it would be in the same position as a railway company. In his reference to limited companies also, the hon. Member raised an issue which is absolutely irrelevant. He is not satisfied with the issue that had been raised; but wants to widen it. He wants a declaration of the House of Commons that every limited liability company, whatever its object, is entitled to use money obtained from the public for one purpose, and practically appropriate it to other purposes. The hon. and learned Member is not satisfied with the Second Reading of the Bill; he wants it accompanied by a declaration that there should be permitted in this country the sort of thing that has polluted public life in other parts of the world, where huge trusts and syndicates use for political purposes money subscribed for commercial purposes. Is that what the directors want?

*COLONEL LOCKWOOD: No.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am glad to hear that declaration from the right hon. Gentleman, and I am sure it would smooth the passage of the Bill if some one on behalf of the railway companies would get up and make a declaration of that kind. As to the introduction of a clause prohibiting these subscriptions by railway companies, I have consulted the authorities of the House, and am informed that such a course would not be possible. It would amount to an alteration of the general law of the country. That may be necessary. If railway companies go on using for political purposes the monopoly conferred by Parliament, it will be time for Government to interfere. But that is a question for a general Bill. After the declaration of the right hon. Gentleman I shall vote for the Bill; but it would help the passing of the Bill if some one on behalf of the railway companies would say that it was not intended to regard the Second Reading as an affirmation of the legitimacy of the proceeding of which complaint has been made.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S): I rise to say a word or two with reference to the speech we have just heard from the right hon. Gentleman. He has asked some director to get up and say what is the policy of the railway companies in regard to the issue which he conceives to have been raised by my hon. and learned friend. The right hon. Gentleman has on behalf of the Government told the House how he proposes to vote on this Bill. He accepts the declaration of my right hon. friend on behalf of the company whose policy is challenged, and he asks that the passage of the Bill shall be secured by some declaration on behalf of the railway company. The right hon. Gentleman must know that at this moment that is an impossible request. He must know that no director can speak for his company without consulting his board. I submit, therefore, that the view of the President of the Board of Trade has been expressed in an extremely frank manner, and that he has put the issue before us on its proper footing. The President of the Board of Trade has frankly accepted the explanation of my right hon. friend behind me. The whole question of corporations in regard to rates is an extremely difficult one, and I think it will be admitted that it would be unfair to discuss it in connection with this particular Bill. Corporations are called upon to pay rates in regard to which they have no representation and over whose expenditure they have no power of control. The right hon. Gentleman has disposed altogether of the case before the House, having accepted the frank, honest, and outspoken declaration of my right hon. friend; and I am bound to say that it would be a very partial acceptance of the advice of the Government if, apart from the merits of the Bill, a wider issue were raised. I hope that the question will be decided on the merits of the Bill, and that the matter will not be complicated by a side issue as to the rates paid by corporations. After the acceptance of my right hon. friend's explanation, I cannot help thinking that the House will not reject the Bill, which would not only mean delay to the railway company, but affect all those who depend on that company.

SIR J. BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said he was very sorry that the right hon. Member for South Dublin had not spoken up to the level of his reputation. He was quite satisfied that in his own mind the right hon. Gentleman disapproved quite as much as the right hon. and gallant Gentleman behind him of the practice of giving money to political organisations out of corporate funds. If he would only tell the House that he thoroughly disapproved of such action they would accept the statement.

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not understand that the point is under discussion. The President of the Board of Trade has distinctly stated that he accepts the explanation of my right hon. and gallant friend, and the right hon. Gentleman was speaking on behalf of the Government. ["No!"] Well he was speaking as President of the Board of Trade. My right hon. and gallant friend admitted that the directors had made the subscription, but were in ignorance of the nature of the society. That explanation has been accepted, and, if so, what becomes of the charge?

SIR J. BRUNNER regretted still more that the right hon. Gentleman had not told them that he thoroughly disapproved of the money of companies being used for political purposes. He was convinced that the right hon. Gentleman did disapprove of corporate money being used in that way.

MR. WALTER LONG: Certainly.

SIR J. BRUNNER believed that, after such a declaration, the mischief would never occur again. Railway companies were under no peculiar disabilities. His own company paid large sums in rates. In one township they paid 92 per cent. of the rates; in another 87 per cent.; and in another 95 per cent, but he remembered very well going into one parish meeting, and being told by the chairman to go out. He sympathised with his right hon. and gallant friend who had made a frank declaration to the House, and, as he thought that the larger question which had been raised was one which they had better sleep over coolly, he would move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) seconded the Motion, which seemed to be in the best interests of the traditions of the House and the interests of the Bill. He felt that the House had a right to consider the larger issue which had been raised, and he believed that the overwhelming majority of Members would be found to be against what had taken place. But after the frank admission of the directors, he thought it would be rash to throw out the Bill.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned." —(*Sir John Brunner.*)

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was inclined to support the Motion for the adjournment of the debate. They would all feel that in view of the wider issue which had been mixed up with the narrower one it was desirable that there should be an adjournment, more especially as it would enable some other railway directors to repudiate the theory which had been put forward in regard to the practice of subscribing to Party funds. Even if this Motion were got out of the way, the Bill could not be disposed of then, because there were other Motions relating to it. He suggested for the consideration of the promoters whether it would not be better in the interest of the Bill that they should consent to the adjournment.

***Colonel LOCKWOOD** concurred in the proposal for the adjournment.

Mr. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) agreed that the matter might require some further consideration. He was glad that the House had had an opportunity of looking into this question. He had for the last twenty-five years been closely associated with railway companies in various capacities, and he had been an unfortunate shareholder in some of them. He could not help feeling that it would be a wholesome check upon some railway companies if the House looked carefully and strictly——

***Mr. SPEAKER**: Order, order! The only matter which can now be discussed is the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. PERKS said he would suggest that railway companies should be given an opportunity of collectively ascertaining their views upon these public questions, and he thought his right hon. friend opposite would do well to avail himself of the adjournment to obtain the collective opinion of the directors of the various companies as to the advisability or otherwise of such an appropriation of funds. He had no hesitation in saying that he would have nothing to do with any railway company which, directly or indirectly, voted money for any political or religious organisation.

Question, "That the debate be now adjourned," put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham), in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

Sir F. BANBURY rose to move the omission of Clause I. on the ground that it appropriated £439,000, which ought to go to the reduction of Debt instead of going to the reduction of the Army Estimates.

***The CHAIRMAN**: The hon. Baronet cannot discuss that point, because it is a matter which has already been decided by the House.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) asked what was the object in putting the Question if it could not be discussed ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : I put the Question "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill," in the ordinary way, because there were no Amendments.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD : Yes, after having decided that it could not be discussed.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 250, Noes 51. (Division List No. 45.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn HorbertJohn
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)

Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Letrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks., East)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A.R.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Harmood-Banner.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow.

ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson.*)

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Motion for the Adjournment of the debate lapsed without Question put.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday.

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 20th March, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Barnsley, Wombwell, and Wath Tramways Bill [H.L.]. The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. The order of Thursday last referring the Examiners Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee discharged. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited Bill [H.L]; Royal Bank of Scotland Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a, and committed.

United Methodist Church Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to order), and committed.

City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to order), and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Burnley Corporation Bill, and the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill ought to be dispensed with, read and agreed to.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a to-morrow.

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills.—Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, also the time for depositing Documents relating to any Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Easter be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills.—Ordered,

That private no Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 18th day of June next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday the 2nd day of May next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 18th day of June next.

That when a Bill shall have passed the House with amendments these orders shall not apply to any new Bill sent up from the House of Commons which the the Chairman of Committees shall report to the House is substantially the same as the Bill so amended.

That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday the 2nd day of May next, unless such Private Bill shall have been approved by the High Court of Justice; nor any petition for a Private Bill approved by the High Court of Justice after Tuesday the 7th day of May next.

That this House will not receive any report from the Judges upon petitions presented to this House for Private Bills after Tuesday the 7th day of May next.

Ordered, That the said orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall. (No. 21.)

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, I wish to thank my noble friend the Lord Chairman for having postponed this Bill for two or three days. The clauses to which we took some exception are Clauses 25 and 26. Clause 25 enables the Corporation to supply electric energy not only within their own district but outside, and I trust my noble friend will carefully consider that clause. Clause 26 provides that any sum due to the Corporation for fittings supplied may be recovered summarily as a civil debt or by distress or sale of the goods and chattels of the debtor. This power was asked for by the Sheffield Corporation in 1903, and the clause was struck out of the Bill. They seem, therefore, to be attempting now to secure by a side wind what was refused by Parliament four years ago. There is a case pending with reference to the point, and under these circumstances we felt justified in opposing the clause. I understand, however, that it is to be deleted, and, in these circumstances, I have no objection to offer to the Second Reading of the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, I understand that the noble Lord does not propose to offer any opposition to the Second Reading of the Bill, and I can assure him that the clauses he has referred to, one of which the promoters do not, I believe, intend to proceed with, will receive very careful consideration before the next stage of the Bill.

On Question, Bill read 2^a and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Memorandum.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Tables showing the extent in statute acres and the produce of the crops and numbers of live stock, for the year 1906.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PUBLIC RECORDS (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE).

Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents belonging to the late Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, and the succeeding King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853-1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licence granted by His Majesty to Dorothy Pearson, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, London, N.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (BOROUGH OF JARROW).

Order made by the borough council of Jarrow, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND).

Order made by the council of the county of Northumberland altering certain polling districts in the Tyneside and Wansbeck Parliamentary divisions.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

JUDICATURE BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read, and discharged.

HOME RULE.

*THE EARL OF DENBIGH rose to put the following Questions, viz:—To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are aware that in November 1906, Mr. John Redmond stated definitely that he and his Party would accept no form of Home Rule that did not include a freely elected Parliament and executive responsible to it; whether, having regard to the Prime Minister's speech at Stirling in November, 1905, they accept Mr. Redmond's words as embodying the "larger policy" of the Irish party; whether they regard with approval the policy of establishing in Ireland a freely elected Parliament and an executive responsible to it; and if so, whether any legislation dealing with the Government of Ireland which may be introduced this session is to be regarded as leading to that end.

The noble Earl said: My Lords, before putting the Questions which stand in my name, I would ask your Lordships' permission to explain my reasons for placing them on the Paper. In the first place, I am afraid I must plead guilty to not being an Irishman—no doubt more's the pity for me—although I happen to be the possessor of a somewhat ancient Irish name, and I have never had any property in Ireland. I merely mention these personal matters because, as a rule, Irish debates and Irish questions in this House have been raised by noble Lords intimately connected with Ireland, and coming from that country. But I put these questions to-day simply and solely from the point of view of a mere Briton. I further wish to make it perfectly clear that in addressing these questions to His Majesty's Government I plead guilty also to being actuated from the selfish point of view, perhaps, of the mere Briton, but selfish only in so far as self-preservation is generally regarded as a somewhat predominant human instinct.

Your Lordships will remember the speech which was made by the Prime Minister at Stirling in November 1905, just before the general election. The speech caused a considerable amount of emotion at the time in the ranks of those who were opposing His Majesty's late Government, and it was realised that, although many people were willing to vote for His Majesty's present Government on the general issues which were before them, a great many of them were extremely restive on the subject of Home Rule. The consequence was that after the Prime Minister had made this speech it was found necessary to administer a considerable amount of soothing syrup to the electors of the country, and this was administered mostly by Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Haldane, Sir Henry Fowler and others, including, I believe, the present Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Birrell. At the same time I am bound to say that the Prime Minister adopted the cautious attitude, well known, I believe, in recent fiction and natural history, of lying low and saying nothing.

Well, my Lords, all these right hon. Gentlemen whom I have mentioned assured the country that there was no danger or likelihood of Home Rule in the present Parliament, and they further stated that it would not be fair to use the votes given on other issues for the purpose of pushing a Home Rule policy. The country was lulled by these assurances. The nervous were comforted, and the general election took place, and we all know what happened. Since then a great many people have been asking themselves as to what was really in the Prime Minister's mind when he made that speech and when he advised the Irish Party to accept anything that was offered to them provided that it led up to, and was consistent with, what he was pleased to call their larger policy; and during the last twelve months many people have wished to know whether these sentiments of the Prime Minister were shared generally by the Members of His Majesty's Government. We have often had declarations from the Irish Party and from Mr. John Redmond, their leader. In fact, there has been no secret whatever about their general intentions and aspirations; but during the last twelve months Mr. Redmond has been making it increasingly clear that nothing, to use his own words, would satisfy the Irish Party except a "freely elected Parliament and an Executive responsible to it." The other day, in the House of Commons, the Chief Secretary for Ireland used these words when the Home Rule question was raised on the Address—

> "The Prime Minister, like myself in this respect, is perfectly satisfied that ultimately the only solution that will give satisfaction to the great majority of the population of Ireland will be what is generally called a Home Rule Parliament, and therefore he says he would never make himself responsible for any measure which would in any way be likely to obstruct or interfere with the fulfilment of those hopes."

Therefore, if Mr. Birrell's and the Prime Minister's reasons for advocating Home Rule for Ireland are to be found in the conviction that the only solution which will satisfy the Irish people is to be found in that policy, then I suggest to the House that obviously that form of Home Rule must take the shape demanded by Mr. Redmond, which he says will be the only satisfactory one to the Irish Home Rule Party. This opens up a very large and a very serious question, and I will undertake to say that very many Home Rulers, who indulge in pious aspirations about the desirability, and, in fact, the justice, of the Irish being allowed to manage their own affairs, will have nothing whatever to say to Mr. Redmond's demands when once they realise what they really mean.

I am not for one moment wishing to convey that the present system of government in Ireland is everything that could be wished, and that opposition should invariably be made to any suggestions of change in that government. I think that everyone will agree that grave and cruel wrongs have undoubtedly been inflicted upon the Irish people in times gone by. Standing here as a Catholic, I say all honour to Irish Catholics for having adhered to the Faith in the way they did in the face of the cruel persecutions that came from Protestant England, and I say deliberately that I think Protestant England has much to answer for, and has a heavy responsibility upon her shoulders in regard to the ill-will which at present exists in Ireland towards England, and which is mainly the outcome of the abominable treatment which Ireland received, and the cruel persecutions of the penal laws. But, my Lords, two wrongs do not make a right, and I believe it is perfectly possible vastly to improve the condition of the Irish people and the economic condition of Ireland without this country committing an act which could only be described as one of national insanity.

In the recent debates in the other House of Parliament, the Chief Secretary stated that because he and the Prime Minister were known to be Home Rulers, it was a subject of complaint that someone did not rise at once to explain the provisions, or, at all events, to indicate the outlines, of the coming Irish legislation of His Majesty's Government. If the noble Lord who is going to honour me by answering my Questions is contemplating saying that he is unable to state anything until the introduction of the Irish proposals of the Government, and that therefore I must wait until then before getting any Answer to my Questions, the noble Lord may save his breath, because I am not asking him anything of the kind. What I do say is this. Having regard to the speech which was made by the Prime Minister at Stirling, having regard to the declarations about no Home Rule at the time of the general election, having regard to Mr. Redmond's repeated declarations as to his interpretation of what is known as his "larger policy," I maintain that the country has a right to know whether Mr. Redmond's interpretation of the larger policy is accepted by His Majesty's Government, and whether this Bill which is going to be shortly introduced—I do not care what it contains or what it does not contain—is to be deliberately regarded as leading up to that end. If it does not lead up to that end Mr. Redmond says he is going to know the reason why. He made a speech two or three days ago at Bradford, in which he said—

> "They were not going to be offered to-morrow or this session a full measure of Home Rule for Ireland. There was, however, to be some step, some effort at decentralisation, some scheme of devolution, some effort by tinkering with the present rotten system to reform it. What should Ireland's attitude be under those circumstances? Nothing could satisfy their demand but an Irish Parliament with an Executive responsibility. Nothing but a full measure could ever cure the ills of Ireland. Did it follow from that that Ireland should reject anything short of Home Rule? His own individual view was that the more public discussion there was on what was called the half-way house the more this in itself would be a liberal education to doubtful and ignorant Englishmen."

I quite agree with Mr. Redmond. I think that the more discussion there is upon the subject of the half-way house policy the better it will be for the education of doubtful and ignorant Englishmen. I shall have a word to say about that presently. Mr. Redmond concluded his speech by saying—

> "He believed their scheme would be based upon broad democratic principles, and would be no bar but a help and further advance to complete Home Rule. No doubt some reactionary influences existed in the Liberal Party; and he wished to say a word of warning to point out the awful disaster, both for the Liberal Party and for Ireland, which would follow paltering by the Government with real democratic principles."

There is a tonic for noble Lords opposite! The awful disaster to Ireland which is to happen if these gentlemen do not get entirely their own way is gradually being prepared for by the reduction of the police and the dropping of the Crimes Act; but if that disaster should take the form which previous disasters of a similar nature have taken in Ireland, all I can say is that a very heavy responsibility will rest on the present Administration. Then he speaks of the awful disaster to the Liberal Party. We will await that with all the resignation we can muster, and that it will probably be an earthquake of San Francisco proportions seems to be more than likely from the premonitory rumblings that are taking place, and the sooner it happens the better it will be for the country and the cause of honest politics.

Now a word for the doubtful and ignorant Englishman who wants educating on the half-way house policy. I would suggest to the House that if the general policy of His Majesty's Government is not to be regarded as a half way house towards the elected Parliament and the Executive responsible to it, it is perfectly easy for His Majesty's Government to get up and say so, and then we shall know where we are; but I say that, in the absence of any such declarations, we are perfectly justified in assuming from the words of the Prime Minister and Mr. Birrell which I quoted to your Lordships just now, that the opposite is the case. I would invite the doubtful and ignorant Englishman to ask himself this simple question. Would a freely elected Parliament with control of the Executive in Ireland tend to the strengthening or to the weakening of Great Britain as a great Power? The amiable but somewhat impracticable sentimentalists who blossom so luxuriously in the ranks of the supporters of His Majesty's Government, and who, in fact, are not entirely absent from Government circles, though, of course, I do not wish to make any aspersions on noble Lords opposite, say that the adoption of the Home Rule policy would result in the union of hearts, and that the leopard would forthwith proceed to change his spots. I think that the doubtful and ignorant Englishman would probably find that the answer to the question which I have suggested is a very simple one—that it depends upon the character and the personality and the sentiments of the men composing the Irish Parliament. I should like, therefore, to draw the attention of the House to various sentiments which have been expressed by prominent members of the Irish Party. I will take, first of all, Mr. John Redmond. In New York, in September, 1904, at the end of a long speech, Mr. Redmond said—

> "My views are moderate views. But if it were in my power to-morrow by any honourable means absolutely to emancipate Ireland I would do it. I would feel it my duty to do it. I believe it would be just as possible for Ireland to have a prosperous and free separate existence as a nation as Holland, or Belgium or Switzerland, or other small nationalities. And if it were in the power of any man to bring that result about to-morrow by honourable and brave means, he would indeed be a coward and a traitor to the traditions of his race did he not do so."

Then, my Lords, we have Mr. Dillon. In a speech delivered at Moville, in Ireland, in December, 1904, Mr. Dillon said—

> "I say deliberately that I should never have dedicated my life as I have done to this great struggle if I did not see at the end of this great struggle the crowning and the consummation of our work, a free and independent nation."

And again, in January, 1905, he said, speaking at Thurles—

> "The Nationalist revival would sweep before it all vestiges of English rule in Ireland. They never would have in Ireland a really prosperous and happy land until that rule was swept clean out of it."

You have another important member of the Irish Party in Sir Thomas Esmonde, who said, in June last year—

> "At all events it is no secret to any of us that every one of us is absolutely and firmly convinced that so long as foreigners have anything to say to the government of this country Ireland can never be prosperous, and we all look forward to the day when the people of Ireland will control the Irish land from North to South, from East to West, without any control from any outside people whatever."

Then you have various organisations in Ireland of the character of the Gaelic League and *Sinn Fein*, and their sentiments are exactly the same. Speaking of the Gaelic movement, the *Freeman's Journal* declared that—

> "The influence of the Gaelic movement has acted vigorously against enlistment in the Army . . . . enlistment is the worst form of emigration . . . . . it implies an incipient demoralisation. and inevitably produces an unwelcome Anglicisation."

Your Lordships have seen in the papers a good deal of what has been going on with regard to interference with enlistment in Ireland—the obstacles which are placed in the way of enlistment and the threats of every description which are levied against those who wear His Majesty's uniform.

I would ask your Lordships' particular attention to the speech by Mr. Devlin, the accredited representative of the Irish Party, in June, 1902, in New York, where he had gone for the purpose of what is commonly called "raising the wind." He evidently thought the necessary dollars required a certain amount of extraction, and he spoke up in this straightforward way—

> "I would suggest to those who have constituted themselves the censors of our movement, would it not be well to give our movement a fair chance—to allow us to have as owners the tillers of the land, to have an Irish Parliament that will give our people all authority over the police and the judiciary and all government in the nation?"

And Mr. Devlin went on to say—

> "When equipped with comparative freedom, then would be the time for those who think we should destroy the last link that binds us to England to operate by whatever means they think best to achieve that great and desirable end. I am quite sure I speak for the United Irish League on this matter."

I saw, by the way, that a Member of His Majesty's Government, Dr. Macnamara, had joined the United Irish League within the last few days. I commend that to His Majesty's Government. When we quote these speeches to what I call the sentimentalists of the Liberal Party they say to us, in effect—Oh, they do not mean half they say; Irishmen always ask for more than they are prepared to take, and the greater part of all this talk is mere bluff and need not be taken seriously. I should like to ask the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council (who had some experience of Ireland in that exalted position which he filled to the admiration of everybody), if he has the temerity in the course of this debate to address the House on this subject, whether he considers that all this talk on the part of the Irish Parliamentary Party is mere bluff and is not to be taken seriously? I do not believe that the Lord President dare express an opinion either one way or the other, because if he did it would probably be a hopeless giving away of the case of His Majesty's Government.

I respectfully suggest to the House that there is only one interpretation to be placed upon the extracts from speeches which I have read to your Lordships, and that is that, without the smallest doubt, a large and growing section of those who constitute the Irish Party are working to break off from all control by England, and to be in a position to declare Ireland a separate and independent nation. People constantly observe, when you say that to them, "Oh, it is impossible that the Irish could have such a foolish idea." But the fact remains that we have to take their sentiments as they are expressed, and if we do take them seriously, all I can say is they have only themselves to thank. Meanwhile I ask you to consider what would be the position with a freely elected Parliament and an Executive controlled by it. I ask you to consider—I would especially ask the doubtful and ignorant Englishman to consider—the way in which this Parliament would be able to put the screw upon England at an inconvenient moment, and how they would be in a position to put into action that well-known saying, "England's difficulty would be Ireland's opportunity."

What would be the position of this country in the event of some European crisis when we were called upon to fight for our national prestige as a great Power and for our very existence as a nation? If the Irish Party did not see eye to eye with us in that particular matter, what an opportunity there would be for them—as it is vulgarly expressed—to put the squeeze upon us. I ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War and the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty to consider for a moment the manner in which a hostile Irish Parliament with control of the executive could annoy and hamper our military and naval forces—how they could interfere with recruiting, how they could refuse supplies, how they could hamper our Fleets with false information and general annoyance when using Irish harbours, how they could worry them in every possible way and produce a position which would be absolutely intolerable. I submit that the position of this country, having to fight for existence with a state of things such as that in progress, would be like fighting with one arm tied behind the back; and I respectfully urge the House to say that the risks are far too serious for this country to take.

There was a remarkable admission made by the Prime Minister the other day, when he said—

> "It does not make any difference whatever, in the proper sense of the word, in the solidity of the Empire that the Irish people should have what every self-governing Colony in the whole Empire has, the power of managing its own affairs,"

thereby evidently conveying the idea that he (the Prime Minister) is under the impression that the case of Ireland bears some similarity to that of our great

Colonies. The sincerity of that can be very easily tested. Suppose one of our great English-speaking Colonies were to get restive under the English connection and were to cut the painter, sever all connection with England, and declare itself an independent republic. Would the Prime Minister mobilise the First Line and proceed to reduce them to order ? Your Lordships know perfectly well that nothing of the sort would happen. But what about Ireland ? Suppose the disloyal faction in Ireland got the upper hand, cut the painter, and declared the country an independent republic, as they say it is their wish to do, would the Prime Minister take it lying down ? I undertake to say that if he did the doubtful and ignorant Englishman would not. Then why talk this futile nonsense about Ireland bearing any resemblance to our great self-governing Colonies in this matter ? To use a now historic phrase, we have had enough of this foolery, It must be recognised that the geographical position of Ireland and its proximity to our shores place it in a totally different position from Colonies situated thousands of miles away.

I apologise to your Lordships for keeping the House so long, but I want to say one word more. What is the position of those members of His Majesty's Government who, previous to the general election, went out of their way to assure the country that there was no danger or prospect of Home Rule ? I should like in that connection, if I may, to tell your Lordship's a little story. Once upon a time, in the course of the last 100 years, I happened to find myself in conversation with a very important and gallant officer who occupied one of the principal positions at the War Office. In the course of conversation I spoke to him rather bitterly about the treatment which had been meted out to certain individuals whom I happened to know, and I told him that I thought the treatment was both shabby and mean. What had happened was this. The War Office wanted a certain article made to fulfill certain specifications, and after a great deal of trouble and expense the individuals in question at last produced an article to the satisfaction of the War Office. The authorities then demanded that specifications and particulars should be sent in to them, and these were promptly handed out for open competition in the trade. Naturally enough the other manufacturers, who had been put to no previous expense in the experiments and in the erection of costly plant, were able to compete on unfairly favourable terms, and the individuals in question lost the greater part of the business. I suggested to the gallant officer that I thought this treatment was shabby and mean, and the answer I got was this, "My dear friend, I am bound to admit that as officials we sometimes do things which we should be ashamed to do as private gentlemen." I suggest to your Lordships that that little story is very *à propos* to the present position. You have certain Gentlemen in His Majesty's Government, honourable Gentlemen as we know them to be, who in their private capacity would scorn to be elected to a position on certain pledges and then forthwith countenance proceedings deliberately designed for the purpose of weakening the position which they had undertaken to defend. Yet, my Lords, in spite of that, we have before us the sight of those gentlemen, banded together in the corporate and official position of a Government, supporting what I consider to be a most dishonourable policy and rightly described by Mr. Balfour yesterday as nothing more nor less than a fraud on the British electorate.

We thought we had unearthed the greatest election fraud of modern times in the Chinese labour question, and I notice very often that supporters of His Majesty's Government have come to very much the same conclusion themselves, for when you speak of Chinese labour now they evince a desire to change the subject and to discuss the weather. My Lords, are we on the point of discovering a still bigger electioneering fraud than the Chinese question ? Are we now going to find this out ? Well, all I can say is that it rests with His Majesty's Government to clear themselves if they possibly can. I have put on the Paper some perfectly simple Questions, which can be answered by perfectly simple and straightforward replies. I am not making any undue, indiscreet, or premature inquiry as to the contents of the Irish legislation which His Majesty's Government are going to produce before very long, and if the Government refuse to give a satisfactory answer to the Questions I have ventured to put, and if this conspiracy of silence is going to be maintained, they will have only themselves to blame if there is but one interpretation placed upon it—namely, that His Majesty's Goverment are either wilfully deceiving the British electorate or else deluding the Irish people. I beg to put the Questions standing in my name.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (the Earl of CREWE): My Lords, the noble Earl in the course of his kind reference to myself expressed some doubt whether I would have the temerity to reply. I plead guilty to having that temerity, and I will give the best answer I can to the Question he has placed upon the Paper. The noble Earl, in the course of his speech, quoted an expression used by Mr. Redmond as to doubtful and ignorant Englishmen. The noble Earl informed us that he was an Englishman, although I believe he does bear an Irish title in addition to his English name, but he is certainly neither ignorant nor doubtful. He is not ignorant, because he has evidently devoted the most praiseworthy industry to the study of the subject, and to the unearthing of quotations from speeches, and he is certainly not doubtful, because his speech showed that he at any rate holds very strong and clear, though I do not think entirely well informed, opinions on questions of Irish government.

The noble Earl said his Question was a purely discreet one, and that he had no desire to make indiscreet inquiries as to the terms of the Irish measure of the Government. I think it was a former Ambassador from France to this country who was asked a question by a lady, as to which she expressed some fear that it might be an indiscreet one, and he pointed out, in reply, that a question could not be indiscreet, but the answer might be. Consequently I must endeavour to make my reply at least as discreet as the Question. The noble Earl asks us whether we are aware of certain declarations made by Mr. Redmond, and of others made at an earlier date by the Prime Minister. We are aware of those declarations, but I do not know that the dates of them are particularly important, or that there is any special point or purpose in calling attention to the special occasions on which those declarations were made. As a matter of fact both Mr. Redmond's declarations and those of the Prime Minister have been, for more years than it is necessary to count, each of a perfectly consistent nature.

I do not know if your Lordships will remember that in the years 1888 and 1889, in another place, Mr. Redmond moved an Amendment to the Address, in which he said it was desirable that an independent Parliament should be instituted in Ireland, and as the noble Earl is so deeply interested in this matter, and is evidently prepared to study it at length, I should recommend him to read the debate in *Hansard* on both those occasions, and he will find in both years that the Motion was opposed by the Liberal Party—on the first occasion by Sir W. Harcourt, and on the second by two members of the present Administration in speeches which I strongly recommend to the noble Earl and the House generally—one by the Prime Minister and the other by Mr. Haldane. Those speeches convey, in perfectly clear terms, what the position of the Government has been and is with regard to the question of Irish government.

The noble Earl alluded to the declarations made by various Members of the Government before the general election. Those declarations amounted to this—that a measure dealing with Irish government would be introduced, that it would not be a Home Rule measure, that it would be an advance in the direction of self-government, and that it would not be incompatible with a further advance in the direction of Home Rule when the country should desire it.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am sorry to interrupt the noble Earl, but I should like to ask whom he is quoting.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am quoting all the members of His Majesty's present Administration.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: During the election?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Before and during the election. The declaration that any advance made would not be incompatible with a further advance has always seemed to me a superfluous one, because I cannot conceive of any possible change in the direction of granting further self-government to Ireland which would of itself be incompatible with a step still further, if it were desired to take such a step. The noble Earl alluded to a deputation which waited yesterday upon Mr. Balfour, at which the noble Marquess who leads the Opposition was also present. On that occasion Mr. Balfour said that the proceedings of the Government in relation to this matter of Irish government amounted to a deliberate and intentional fraud. I confess that we are not greatly disturbed by that criticism. We are used in this connection to mock heroics and simulated indignation. Ever since this Irish question has been before the country we have had plenty of experience of both, and if the exceedingly respectable gentlemen who attended that deputation desire as a diet that rather musty *rechauffé*, I have no doubt Mr. Balfour was perfectly right to give it them.

The noble Marquess took very little part in replying to the deputation. He alluded to only one subject, which I confess seems to me remote from any practical bearing on the question. He expressed the dread which the inhabitants of Belfast would feel if a Customs duty were to be placed on goods coming to them from England. I do not know whether he contemplated the reverse proposition that England, having departed from a free-trade policy, might also desire to place a Customs duty against the productions of the sister island. But both the noble Marquess and Mr. Balfour seemed to admit that it was somewhat unusual to discuss the provisions of a Bill which had not been introduced. At the same time, I quite admit that that course has its convenience. When you are speaking to a friendly and sympathetic audience such as Mr. Balfour was addressing, it is very much simpler to proceed by way of inference and innuendo than by dealing with hard facts. It was of inference and innuendo that that speech was composed.

In the latter part of his Question the noble Earl asks what will be the effect of our measure in the direction of leading towards Home Rule. I answer, not in a dialectical form, but simply making a statement of fact, that it is impossible to give any reply to that Question until the measure is produced. When the measure is produced some people may say that it makes Home Rule inevitable, while other people, looking at it from a different point of view, may say that it involves the indefinite postponement of Home Rule. The fact is that the intentions of a Government, no matter to which Party they belong, are much the least interesting thing about them; what is interesting and to the purpose is what the actual effect will be of the measures which they actually produce. Noble Lords will remember perfectly well that all through the discussions on the fiscal question that point was pressed to the degree of weariness. The question which interested us was not what the intentions of the Government might be with regard to certain fiscal proposals, but what the actual effect of those proposals would be if they were translated into law. In fact, when any measure is introduced, one set of persons may consider it to be a timely concession, and another set, looking at it from an opposite point of view, may regard it as a pusillanimous surrender. If the noble Lord will devote himself to looking up and studying some of the "might-have-beens" of history I think he will see that to attempt to state definitely what, in the course of years, will be the effect of a particular advance in giving self-government to a particular country is a practically impossible task.

*THE EARL OF DENBIGH: I am not asking anything of what you are suggesting now, but whether the Government regard with approval the demands which Mr. Redmond has put forward, and which he says is the only solution which will satisfy him.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: What the intentions or desires of any body of public men may be on a particular subject is of no interest to anybody but themselves. What is of interest to the public is the steps which they take in the direction of particular legislation. Take instances connected with Ireland. Take the concession of local government to Ireland. Many people thought at the time, and still think, that that concession was a distinct step in the direction of Home Rule. There were some very eminent people who considered it a more dangerous step than granting an Irish Parliament. On the other hand, it was quite possible to maintain that Irishmen would be so interested in looking after such affairs as they were given the management of by the institution of county councils that they would cease to desire a central body sitting in Dublin. Take again the conciliatory policy of the late Government. What was the effect of sending my noble friend Lord Dudley to Ireland and appointing Sir Antony MacDonnell to the eminent position he still holds? It is a very interesting matter for historical inquiry whether the effect of that somewhat remarkable step was to accelerate or retard Home Rule. I daresay the noble Earl, on some future occasion, may be disposed to give us his opinion on that point. Take another question, the institution of a Catholic University. I have no doubt that the noble Earl who spoke of the sufferings in the past of those belonging to the Church of which he is a member would be in favour of enabling Catholics in Ireland to get all the advantages of the highest education. But would the improvement of Catholic education in Ireland be a step in advance towards Home Rule? A great many people, of whom I am one, think it undoubtedly would. If you desire that a distinct class of people should not have a share in the government of their country it may be that it is advisable to keep them as ignorant as possible.

When you approach these somewhat abstract considerations as to what will be the effect of a particular measure, you are absolutely in the region of hypotheses, and you are confronted with this dilemma, which I should like the noble Earl to consider. Either you must be prepared to admit that the present system of Irish government is one which ought to be the pride and admiration of our fellow-subjects in the Colonies and the envy of all foreign countries, or that it ought to be subjected to some change. If you admit that it ought to be subjected to some change, then you cannot get out of the probability that you may find yourself advancing, step by step, in the direction of Home Rule. Take the question of Home Rule itself, the question of the institution of an Irish Parliament. People who have objected to the institution of an Irish Parliament have done so on different grounds. Nobody can say that any loyal subject would be less loyal because he approved of the idea of having three or four Parliaments sitting in different parts of the United Kingdom instead of one. There may be every kind of difference of opinion as to the efficiency of the Parliaments, but nobody can say that there is anything treasonable or disloyal in the notion of either Home Rule or Home Rule all round. On the other hand, there are those who still object to Home Rule because they believe that you could not stop with the institution of an Irish Parliament, but that it would be a real step in the direction of the ultimate separation of the two countries. That only shows again how very much, when you take a step forward, it must remain a matter of personal opinion what the effect will be.

Consequently I quite admit that when our measure is seen, noble Lords who think it is a step towards Home Rule, and who also believe that Home Rule is a step towards the ultimate separation of the two countries, and the possible foundation of an Irish Republic, will, from their point of view, be perfectly right in opposing it. On the other hand, those who regard it as a reasonable step in the direction of giving a certain section of our fellow-subjects further management of their own affairs, and who do not believe that the institution of an Irish Parliament need lead necessarily, or is in the least likely to lead, to the separation of the two countries—those, no doubt, will be disposed to give their careful consideration to the measure. I am aware, of course, that there are some people with whom it is perfectly useless to argue, and those are the people who do not admit that there is any such place as Ireland at all, and who consider that Ireland is merely a collection of counties in the United Kingdom, as you might speak of the Midlands or of East Anglia. With these, of course, it is impossible to argue, because you have no common ground to go upon at all. But those of us who do believe that there is such a place as Ireland, who recognise the strength of the national feeling, and desire to satisfy it, are determined to do what we can to give to the Irish people a larger share in the management of their own affairs.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I do not think I shall be contradicted when I say that my noble friend Lord Denbigh has put his Questions to the Government with a clearness and lucidity which could not be easily surpassed. I gladly welcome the debate which he has inaugurated, for I feel that the question of Ireland and the dangers which in our opinion threaten it have not been brought with sufficient prominence before the people of this country. The noble Earl who has just sat down stated that the policy of His Majesty's Government with regard to Ireland was declared both before and during the general election. I do not know on what grounds the noble Earl made that statement. If there was one point of the Government policy which was kept back, or, at any rate, not brought prominently before the electors, at the general election, it was the question of Home Rule. It was kept studiously in the background, and I defy contradiction when I say that there was no mandate for Home Rule given by the people of the country at the last election. The present Chief Secretary during the election spoke of Home Rule as a bogey and said that the most timid-minded anti-Home Ruler might go to bed fearlessly and vote as he liked for a Liberal without having his slumbers disturbed by the bogey of Home Rule for Ireland. Therefore I should like to ask the noble Earl how he can say that the question of Home Rule was raised at the general election.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The question of Irish government was raised; a totally different matter.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: To my mind the policy of devolution is more insidious than was the question of Home Rule when brought forward in 1886 and 1893. The noble Earl has undoubtedly made a very astute and ingenious speech, but he has entirely left out of that speech the Question put so clearly by my noble friend behind me. The noble Earl never told the House whether or not he agrees with the speeches of Mr. John Redmond and the Nationalist Party. I can quite understand his reticence. The position of the Party opposite is an extremely difficult one. They dare not lose the Irish vote by refusing to make the promise desired by the Nationalists; while, at the same time, if they made that promise, they would lose the support of the vast majority of the people of this country, who would retaliate upon them in regard to this question of Home Rule, as they have done on the question of Chinese labour. I do not think the noble Earl or any of his colleagues will contradict me when I say that the speeches of Mr. John Redmond are based on separation, and separation only.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I have not the least reason to suppose that Mr. Redmond would not be perfectly content with a permanent measure which had no connection whatever with what the noble Marquess would call separation.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Will Mr. Redmond be perfectly satisfied with the measure which the Government propose to bring forward? When a colleague of the noble Earl, the President of the Board of Trade, went to Belfast, he made use of an extraordinary expression—namely, that separation was unthinkable. I do not think the noble Earl will contradict me when I say that the Nationalist Party do not consider separation unthinkable. What is the meaning of the "larger policy" spoken of by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman at Stirling? The Prime Minister then spoke of giving to Ireland what was given to the self-governing Colonies—the power of managing their own affairs. Here are Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman's own words—

> "The Irish people should have what every self-governing Colony in the whole Empire has—the power of managing its own affairs."

What does that mean in the case of Ireland? It means handing to the Nationalist majority the Judiciary and the police, and making it possible for them to manipulate taxation and rating for purely Party purposes. Ireland would pay nothing towards the Army and Navy, and thus the expenditure of this country would be increased, and it would be possible for the Nationalists to tax British goods. I should like to ask the Lord President whether he approves of the proposal that Ireland should be in the position of a self-governing Colony.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: That certainly is not the Prime Minister's view. I am afraid I must contradict the noble Marquess from the start.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I have quoted Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman's own words. If the noble Earl agrees with the Prime Minister, how can he reconcile his attitude with the speech which he delivered on 12th February, 1902, in which he declared he would never be a party to a proposition which would put Ireland in a position of independence such as that possessed by New Zealand? How does the noble Earl reconcile that speech with the expression of opinion on the part of the Prime Minister when he declared that Ireland should be given the position of a self-governing Colony?

There is another point which requires attention, namely, if this power is handed over to the Nationalist Party, what ground for hope is there for the loyal industrial minority? We follow very closely the speeches made by the Nationalist Party, and we have not forgotten that only in October last Mr. Redmond, in alluding to the minority of Ireland, declared that they must be overborne by the strong hand. Although it was not made in regard to Ireland, the reference which Mr. Birrell made to minorities was not calculated to assure the minority in Ireland: "All minorities must suffer," Mr. Birrell said; "it is the badge of all their tribe." That view is entirely different from that taken by the noble Earl whose absence we all deplore, Lord Spencer, who, in 1887, insisted that the rights of Ulster and the minority of Ulster must be protected. There is a minority outside Ulster who desire that protection every bit as much as the minority in Ulster, and who ought never to be betrayed or given up. There are at present forty-seven persons under constant, and 152 under partial, police protection, and I should like to know what would be the fate of those 199 loyal, industrious people, who only wish to enjoy the rights open to every citizen, if a Nationalist Parliament were in existence? The noble Earl opposite expressed the view that the granting of local government to Ireland was a step towards Home Rule. I deny that statement altogether. Local government was given to Ireland because of a promise that there should be, in this respect, a policy similar to that which had been adopted in England, and there was not the slightest idea in the minds of those who were responsible for giving effect to that policy that they should advance by a hair's breadth towards Home Rule.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I entirely agree in that. I was speaking, not of the intention of those who framed the Act, but of its actual effects.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The intention of the Government of the day was that the county councils should carry out their duties, not on political, but on civil lines. That was the spirit in which Ulster carried out the Act, and it was the political friends of the noble Earl who gave the other county councils in the country an entirely political character.

A good deal has been made by the noble Earl opposite of the phrase that Ireland should be governed according to Irish ideas. If what is meant by Irish ideas is loyalty to the King, devotion to the Union, endeavouring to promote the industries and resources of the country, then, I say, govern Ireland according to Irish ideas. But, if it meant handing over the industrious, law-abiding, and loyal community to the tender mercies of the United League, who advocated boycotting, who ruined thousands of tenants by the Plan of Campaign, and who insisted on cheering the Boer victories, then I should fight strenuously against the proposal to govern Ireland according to Irish ideas.

The scheme of the Government is, as the noble Earl has said, not before us, and we cannot extract from them any opinion with regard to the views of Mr. Redmond and how far they coincide with those of the Prime Minister. I freely acknowledge that the Government are in a delicate position. I fully recognise their difficulty in endeavouring to answer any of the straightforward Questions of my noble friend. But I will tell them that, if they are going to give Home Rule or separation by instalments, they will be acting entirely antagonistically to the views put forward by Mr. Gladstone in 1886. I trust that the English people, and the Irish people as well, will watch, with the greatest closeness, every move of the Government in this matter.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, I do not believe, with the noble Marquess who has just sat down, that there is any difficulty in answering the Questions which have been put by the noble Earl, or, indeed, any of the points that have been raised in this debate. As I understand it, the first subject on which he expressed anxiety to be further informed, although I think he need not ask for further information after the speech of my noble friend, was what was the meaning of the larger policy that was referred to by the Prime Minister in his speech at Stirling. I cannot imagine, after the speeches of the Prime Minister, that there can be the least doubt as to what is meant by the larger policy. I do not speak of the term in any particular connection, but I suppose the Prime Minister is well-known to be, as I am, a Home Ruler *sans phrase.* I suppose it is well known that Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman's purpose and policy have not altered since he adopted the views propounded by Mr. Gladstone. I am not entitled specially to speak for him. but I think I have read all his speeches, and I believe that is what has been said. But it was said, with perfect truth, that there were members of the Administration who, before the election and during the election, intimated that this policy of Home Rule was not a policy which they thought would, or which, in their opinion, ought to be, dealt with in the present Parliament. That is the full extent to which my right hon. friends who have been referred to went, so far as I believe—Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Haldane, all of whom have been referred to. I may have omitted some of their statements, but I am not aware that they have at any time repudiated the policy of Mr. Gladstone. And I am heartily glad to think they have not, because my own feeling upon the subject is that, whatever our opinions may be as to what should be done or what our expectations may be as to what will be done in the present Parliament, the work of Mr. Gladstone is a work of which this country will reap the blessing and the benefit for the rest of our history, although it may not bear fruit at once. And I believe myself that he has set on foot—I say it in all sincerity, and I am sure your Lordships will allow me to express an opinion which I have held for many years and avowed—I believe the state of feeling which he has created between Ireland and this country, as contrasted with the state of feeling that existed before, is a thing upon which we are entitled to congratulate ourselves, and from which we are entitled to look for the best fruits in the future.

The noble Earl, in opening this debate, spoke with natural feeling of the injustice that has been wrought in past times by this country towards Ireland, especially in regard to the matter of religious differences. I think that all nations have suffered and inflicted hardship and wrongs upon others. I do not like to go back upon the melancholy record, but there is no doubt that what the noble Earl said is perfectly true, and I think it would be admitted that it referred, not merely to religious differences, but also to economic treatment. That is the origin, that is the explanation of the feeling that there is and has been for years in Ireland of distrust towards this country. I do not say it is all reasonable. I do not pretend it is, and I regret it, I need hardly say, as much as any man. But the reason for the feeling that exists is the remembrance of a bitter past.

Another Question which the noble Marquess thought had not been answered adequately was this—whether the Bill the Government were about to propose would lead up to Home Rule—that is the substance of the question—Home Rule as described in the Question. The only Home Rule that I recognise is Home Rule in a subordinate Parliament. I do not recognise, and I would not support, and never would support, Home Rule in an independent Parliament. I mean Home Rule in a subordinate Parliament. The question was as to whether the Bill that the Government are about to introduce will or will not lead up to Home Rule in the sense in which I have described it. I think the noble Earl and the noble Marquess will, in a short time, be able to see and judge for themselves. I bespeak a charitable construction. I am afraid we shall not meet with prepossessions in our favour from the noble Marquess, because I know his opinions are very strong on this subject. But may I state my opinion? You cannot touch Irish Government without taking a step towards Home Rule. I do not care how you touch it. If you bring in coercion, if you bring in Crown Government, whatever you do, you inevitably lead up to that in my opinion, just as all roads lead to Rome, because I think it is written in destiny and depends on natural causes that this great change will come, and I hope it will come before very long.

At the same time, are we solitary in proposing to deal with Irish Government otherwise than by Home Rule? Surely we cannot forget what took place two or three years ago when Sir Antony MacDonnell, Mr. Wyndham, and Mr. Balfour, and the noble Marquess who leads the Opposition, were all engaged in what I believed to be a perfectly honourable effort to improve in some way the government of Ireland, of which the noble Earl admitted some amendment was desirable. The late Government evidently thought it necessary to make a change. We think it necessary to make a change; but I do not wish in the least to conceal my own opinion that, whatever change you make from the present system, it must inevitably lead to a change further in the direction of Home Rule. That is in my own opinion. Of course, there may be others who think that it will tend to dispel the agitation and to postpone the remedy of Home Rule. That is not my view. I believe that anything you do—and you must do something—must necessarily lead in that direction.

May I now say, having regard to the language which has been used on this subject, a word or two in justification of this policy which I have been predicting as certain to come? Why do I say it will come? I believe it is as certain to come, whatever your Lordships' prepossessions against it may be, however you may dread the consequences, as to-morrow's sun is to rise. It is because there are forces working towards it beyond the control of this House or of the other House—great human forces which will work out their end and their destiny. The first is the instinctive love of freedom and self-government in this country, which deters our people when they realise it from imposing a yoke on other countries. We have in past history an example in the case of Canada when self-government was given. I agree that there is not an exact parallel between the case of Ireland and that of a distant Colony; but human nature is the same in both countries, and if you wish to quiet discontent and to promote good feeling the way is to have faith, and not to be always trembling on the verge of reform, and afraid to put your hand to it because of later consequences which you conjure up in your imagination, and which may never happen in reality. So it was in Canada. The result of giving self-government under circumstances of considerable difficulty has been the appeasement of much ill blood in that country, and the reconciliation of those who were not of a race kindred to ourselves in all respects in an alliance with us under the British Crown, which I hope will be an indissoluble connection.

We have a more recent example in the case of the Transvaal. I remember it is not much more than a year ago that I stood here and stated that we intended to deal out equal justice to the two races, and that we had confidence in the result. There is no man in this House who will not heartily hope that that prophecy may be fulfilled, and will not feel that there is good presage that it will be fulfilled. It is our best chance and hope.

And why is that possible in this country which would not have been possible in any other? It is because of the intrinsic and deep-grained love of constitutional freedom in this country, which has not its exact parallel in any country in the world, and as surely as that led up to the freeing of the Colonies and the giving to them of self-government, although the effect of liberation was, as the noble Lord says, that if they wished to cut the painter we should not object—just the same feeling that led us to do that, and convinced us that it would lead to a stronger and closer bond of union with the Colonies, so, be assured, that sooner or later that same feeling, ingrained in our people, will produce the same results in regard to Ireland. And I say it will be a blessing when that day comes. That is my reason for saying that in opposing this doctrine of Home Rule your Lordships are fighting against natural forces which must overcome you.

But my second reason is of a different kind. What is the condition of business in the House of Commons at the present moment? Whichever Party is in power, what is the condition of the despatch of business? I have left there only a little while, and I can say that it certainly has been the case during the last twenty-five years, and particularly during the last seven or eight years, that there has been such an accumulation of business in the House of Commons that it has been impossible to carry the work through, and many things which both sides wished to pass have been necessarily postponed from year to year until we wearied even of hearing the names of the Bills. That is the result, notwithstanding that the House of Commons has progressively, during the last quarter of a century, altered its rules and applied a closure of the most rigid character, almost amounting to a gag, so that debate is largely stopped at certain stages. The House of Commons will have to delegate that business to someone else if it cannot do it itself. That is quite certain; and to whom is the House to delegate its business? In what way is devolution to take place? It must take place according to the lines of cleavage created by differences of historical association and of legal systems, and those are the differences between England, Scotland, and Ireland, though none of these differences prevent us from being a United Kingdom. I believe that these forces are operating and will soon come to their full effect, and I should like to say in what way I should like that effect to come.

In my idea Parliament would divide its business into two kinds. The first would be that which relates to the United Kingdom as a whole, or to the British Empire outside, and the second would be that which relates to a separate part of the United Kingdom, such as England, Scotland, or Ireland. The management of the first part I would keep exactly as it is managed by the Imperial Parliament; and the second I would delegate to the representatives of the different countries, always keeping unquestionable, unimpaired, and unaffected in the slightest degree the supreme control of this Imperial Parliament over all. That is the simple method, and I have always advocated it, although I cannot claim that I have received the support and approval of all those who take the view that Home Rule must come.

*THE EARL OF DENBIGH: Will the noble and learned Lord say how he would enforce the control of the Imperial Parliament if the Irish Parliament had control of the Executive?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The Executive of the Imperial Parliament has complete control over all the forces of the Crown, and the Imperial Parliament itself would be able to pass laws which would be recognised and enforced by every magistrate and Judge in Ireland. Of course all these matters would have to be dealt with if a Bill were brought forward. This is a view of my own, which I respectfully submit to the House; but I need hardly say that that view is not the Bill which is about to be introduced. Negatively speaking, I may say that it is not a Home Rule Bill that will be introduced; but when it comes before your Lordships, I hope it will receive the candid and fair consideration of this House and of the other House, and I believe that if only we could get it out of the pestilent circle of Party politics it would commend itself to all reasonable men.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the speech we have just listened to has this great merit—it leaves us in no doubt whatever as to the ultimate object at which His Majesty's Government are aiming. Home Rule, the noble and learned Lord has told us frankly, is the goal—the goal to which all roads lead; the goal which is to be reached by gradual processes, and by legislation of which the first instalment is promised this session. The noble and learned Lord said at the outset that in his view we owe a measure of this kind to Ireland as some reparation for those remote wrongs which have been referred to by my noble friend Lord Denbigh. That is an argument which has been often used in these discussions. I am sorry to say that it is not one that appeals very much to me, or that ought, I think, to appeal very much to the Parliament of this country. It is an argument which was once described, I forget by whom, as "antedating our responsibilities"; and I cannot see why, because at one time Ireland received scant justice at the hands of this country, we should now do penance for the wrong that was then done, by resorting to measures which will weaken the solidity of the Empire and inflict great and serious disability and suffering upon the loyal minority in the sister island.

I can scarcely leave unnoticed a reference to myself which was made by the noble and learned Lord when he told us that everything that was done, either by a Unionist or by a Liberal Administration, could not really fail to tend towards Home Rule; and when he referred once again to the often-referred-to episode during Mr. Balfour's Administration, when Mr. George Wyndham was Chief Secretary, and when, with his full approval, Sir Antony MacDonnell was appointed Under-Secretary to the Irish Government. I have publicly explained, as fully as I could, the nature of the transaction to which the noble and learned Lord referred; and I almost despair of convincing some of those who have regarded it from the first in a somewhat sinister light, and who have discovered in it traces of a kind of conspiracy which I can assure your Lordships has no existence except in the imagination of those who made these criticisms.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I never suggested anything sinister in the noble Marquess's conduct; on the contrary, I think I said expressly that I made no complaint whatever of it, and that I believed all to be actuated by a real desire to benefit their country.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Yes, but I think that what the noble and learned Lord suggested was that the proposals, which originated, as the House knows, with Lord Dunraven, and which afterwards passed into the hands of Sir Antony MacDonnell, were Home Rule proposals, and that they were proposals which found favour with Mr. Balfour and myself. Let me say again that Mr. Balfour had no knowledge of those proposals, that he never heard anything about them until long after they were made; and that as for myself those proposals were made to me, not as the basis of legislation approved by any Department of the Irish Government, but as the outline of a project which had been prepared by Lord Dunraven and the gentleman acting with him, to be used as the basis of discussion at Conferences to be held in Dublin.

Then the noble and learned Lord implored us not to regard this Home Rule policy with so much suspicion, and he said how much better it would be if we had a little more faith. I am not of a particularly suspicious temperament; but I am bound to say that those who are connected with Ireland, when they consider the use that has been made of those opportunities for self-government in local affairs which have been already entrusted to Irish people, when they consider how those opportunities have been used for the purpose of ostracising the loyal minority in all parts of the country, feel their faith a little shaken, and are made to regard, with a frankly suspicious eye, the suggestion to carry those proposals a long stage further.

The noble and learned Lord also drew into his argument the case of Canada and the liberal concession of self-government lately accorded to the Transvaal. But surely we must pause before we accept any Colonial analogy when we are dealing with the case of Ireland. There is at the root of the Irish case the insurmountable geographical fact that Ireland is within a stone's throw of these shores; and however we may be disposed to show our good will or exhibit confidence in the Irish people, we cannot afford to run the risks that we can afford to run with those Colonies in the remoter parts of the Empire. The cases are not *in pari materia.*

There is another analogy which, I think, is worth considering at the present juncture. Home Rule for Ireland used to be recommended to us on the ground that Home Rule worked so admirably in Sweden and Norway. What is that analogy worth to-day? I have, perhaps, a right to say something on the subject, because I was behind the scenes when Sweden and Norway parted company. I am able to say, what I believe is pretty well known, that it was only owing to the self-restraint and statesmanship of half a dozen public men in those countries that war between the two countries was avoided at the last moment. This, my Lords, is not the kind of risks we can run in dealing with Great Britain and Ireland.

Then the noble and learned Lord treated us more generously than the noble Earl opposite, for he gave us a sketch of the plan of Home Rule which he would be content to adopt. I listened to it with interest. I do not think it was exactly the plan of Home Rule which Mr. Redmond and his friends have declared to be the minimum of their demands. I venture to counsel noble Lords opposite, before they look forward to the acceptance of proposals based on those lines, to make quite sure that they will be accepted by those to whom they are offered.

The noble and learned Lord put us off with the old statement that whatever happened the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament would be maintained. That is the theory; but can any one lay his hand on his heart and declare that he believes that in practice, if you give a Parliament in Dublin powers of that kind, the supremacy of the Parliament at Westminster will really remain intact? We know perfectly well that nothing of the kind would happen. I recollect that on one occasion, when this subject was discussed elsewhere, the present Prime Minister distinctly refused to accept amending words in the Resolution before the House of Commons proposed with the object of placing it distinctly on the Paper that the supreme control of the Imperial Parliament was to be maintained over the Assembly which was to be established in Dublin.

I pass for a moment to the reply given by the Lord President of the Council. I think that your Lordships must have been struck by his light touch in eluding the categorical questions put to him by the noble Earl who initiated this discussion. My noble friend Lord Denbigh produced textual quotations from the utterances of Liberal statesmen, and he asked for explanations of those statements. The noble Earl replied by giving a kind of epitome of the views of His Majesty's Government. He was interrupted by my noble friend, who asked the noble Earl whence he quoted the words he was giving to the House; and the noble Earl explained that it was what the different pledges and statements of Ministers taken as a whole amounted to. That is a very convenient way of dealing with a somewhat embarrassing cross-examination of that kind. I was not able to take down the exact words of the noble Earl, but I think he made it pretty clear to us that there would be a gradual process of sapping up to the fortress, beginning with this promised measure, and ending eventually in what we generally describe as Home Rule.

The noble Earl went away from the speech of my noble friend and changed the venue; he changed it to the very remarkable deputation received by Mr. Balfour yesterday. He indulged in some criticisms of the few valedictory words I uttered at the end of the proceedings and the speech of Mr. Balfour himself. The noble Earl rather twitted me with having suggested the possibility that this policy might end in the adoption by the Irish Parliament of a protective tariff. But I had in my mind—indeed, we had been reminded of it by the deputation—that most extraordinary and remarkable speech of the Prime Minister's in which he certainly suggested to all those who read it that in his view the ultimate goal was not Home Rule of the more restricted character suggested by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, but Home Rule of the kind enjoyed by our great Colonies.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Of course, the noble Marquess is entitled to place his own construction on the words used by the Prime Minister or by anyone else; but I confess that the inference I draw from what the Prime Minister said is an entirely different one. I understood him to make a general comparison of the kind made by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I have here what I believe to be an authentic report of the Prime Minister's statement, and it was to this effect—

> "He thought that the Irish people should have what every self-governing Colony in the whole Empire had—the power of managing its own affairs."

I can draw no inference from these words except the inference that something approaching to the system of colonial government was, in the Prime Minister's view, ultimately to be set up in Ireland. I was enlarging on that text, and I made the very pardonable suggestion that the adoption of such a policy might lead to the interruption of the close business relations at present existing between places like Glasgow and Belfast. The feelings of the noble Earl were very much hurt because Mr. Balfour, in the course of his speech, had suggested to the deputation that the conduct of His Majesty's Government in this matter involved something very like fraud.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Not very like a fraud.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Yes, I have the words, and here is Mr. Balfour's reference—

> "The policy of the present Government with respect to Ireland is a deliberate and intentional fraud upon the British electorate."

If any noble Lord will take the trouble to peruse the verbatim report of the speech he will see that what Mr. Balfour pointed out was that we had before us Mr. Redmond's statement that all members of the Government were in favour of Home Rule, that we had the admissions made by members of the Government themselves that they were in favour of Home Rule, that Home Rule was the goal towards which they were working, but that for prudential reasons His Majesty's Government were not able, in view of the pledges of some of their own body, to put before the country anything like a full measure of Home Rule at present; and therefore they asked the country to accept something which would lead to Home Rule, though not Home Rule itself; and then he went on to say it is for that purpose and object that the Government were believed to be in favour of proposals which would put it out of the power of the House of Lords to resist the further development of proposals tending in that direction. Mr. Balfour said, I think with pardonable freedom of expression, that this action was an action which was fraudulent on the electorate of this country.

This debate has been interesting, and in some ways full of instruction for us. I think that my noble friend has probably elicited as much as he expected when he put his notice on the Paper.

*THE EARL OF DENBIGH: A good deal more.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Of course, we all know that my noble friend could not have expected that His Majesty's Ministers would be so complaisant as to give him a private view of the Bill they are about to introduce. Nor yet did my noble friend suspect that His Majesty's Ministers would be successful in reconciling all the different and to some extent conflicting statements which they have given to the public in regard to their Irish policy. I think—and here I am speaking more in the interests of His Majesty's Government than of ourselves—my noble friend may perhaps have expected that advantage would have been taken of this opportunity to say something rather more reassuring with regard to the intentions of His Majesty's Government. Such a statement—a clear answer, for example, to the third of my noble friend's questions—would have reassured many people who really desire to approach this question in a reasonable spirit and with an open mind. If, therefore, we regard the attitude of His Majesty's Government as one profoundly alarming, one of which we are bound to take notice, I think it is they who are to blame for the ambiguity of their language and for the manner in which they have played with this important question of Imperial policy.

My Lords, I am afraid that that language leaves them open to the imputation that they are not altogether ingenuous either when they repudiate Home Rule or when they promise it. That, I think, is the construction which many people will place upon their language and conduct. For myself, I am inclined to take the rather more charitable view, and will only tax them with this, that they are in the habit of talking very loosely and, I am afraid, thinking very loosely about a question which affects the safety and the integrity of the Empire; and, that being so, they must not be surprised if we express our dismay at the levity with which they have dealt with an issue of such overwhelming importance.

THE LICENSING BILL.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government for information as to the probable date of the introduction into Parliament of the promised measure of licensing reform, with the object of effectively diminishing the evils which result from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors under present conditions. In putting this question, I have no intention whatever of saying a word to cause embarrassment to His Majesty's Government, nor have I thought of asking for detailed information, which it is naturally and reasonably impossible to give at the present moment. But there is in this House a very widespread interest in the measure foreshadowed in the gracious Speech from the Throne as likely to be brought before Parliament during the present session, and while there is a wide difference of opinion on the subject there is no difference of opinion as to its importance or as to the desirability of our knowing beforehand the probable date of the introduction of the promised measure. My own view, as any of your Lordships who have followed recent legislation or attempted legislation on this subject know, is one strongly in favour of a forward policy in this particular matter. There are other noble Lords who take an exactly opposite view. We are all agreed in realising the importance of the subject, and in feeling that with its immense intricacy adequate time must be offered to us if we are to discuss as we should a subject which concerns so widely the well-being of the people. No subject mentioned in His Majesty's gracious Speech excited a wider interest among the people at large than the reference to the impending measure on this particular subject. It is because I for one am anxious that such legislation should be adequately considered, that I venture to ask His Majesty's Government whether they are able to give us some general outline as to what is going to happen upon a matter which concerns us all so closely, and which excites so wide an interest outside this House.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I am exceedingly sorry not to be able to give the most rev. Primate a reply of the character which he would consider satisfactorily. I should be glad if it had been possible to give a definite answer to his question, but I am not in a position to do so. All I can say is that an announcement will be made in another place as early as possible, but I am afraid there is not much prospect of that announcement being made before Easter. I am quite aware of the keen interest with which noble Lords in this House and many people outside await some knowledge of the proposals of His Majesty's Government on this subject, and I can assure the most rev. Primate that we shall endeavour to give them the information they desire as soon as it can be done in connection with the general course of business.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: This question of licensing is one of very great importance, and one in which your Lordships feel a deep interest. I should like to ask the noble Earl, therefore, whether it would not be possible, in the congested condition of business in the other House, to introduce the Licensing Bill in this House.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I will, of course, convey the request of the noble Earl to my right hon. friend the Home Secretary, but I am not very hopeful of any concession being made in the direction referred to.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Why is the noble Earl not hopeful?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Bill being the Home Secretary's Bill he would probably desire to introduce it himself, and also, I should think, there may be other reasons of a financial character which would cause him to take that view.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered to-morrow in order to its being suspended for that day's Sitting.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven of the Clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 20*th March, and Thursday*, 21*st March*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill; Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments. Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).

Mr. D. A. THOMAS reported from the Committee on Group 1 of the Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Wednesday, the 17th April, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Company of Proprietors of the Lower Navigation of the River Medway; and for other purposes." [Medway Lower Navigation Bill [Lords].

Galwey's Divorce Bill [Lords]. That they communicate Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken upon the Second Reading of Galwey's Divorce Bill, together with the documents deposited in the case, as desired by this House, with a request that the same may be returned.

Medway Lower Navigation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Alfreton; Cadzow; Cresswell; Cwmboan; Denby Grange; Derbyshire; Derbyshire Silkstone; East Huntslet; Garforth; Glasswell; Glencraig; Hepthorne Lane; Hickleton Main; Holbrook; Kenmuir; Lane Head; Leeds; Newmarket Haig Moor; Old Avenue; Park Hill; Park House; Pilsley; Rothwell; Williamthorpe; Woodside; and, Woodthorpe; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1894.

Petition from Glasgow, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS.

Petition from Worthing, for purchase by the State; to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.

Seven Petitions from Artists, Art Teachers, Students, and others, resident in Ireland, against removal of academic functions; to lie upon the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Bootle; Brighton; Exeter; Halifax (two); London, York, and other places; Nottingham; Reigate; Rochester; Southampton (two); Sunderland; Town and County Councils and others; and, West Bromwich; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from Dundee in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Tables showing the extent in statute acres and the produce of the Crops and numbers of Live Stock for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Northumberland altering certain Polling Districts in the Tyneside and Wansbeck Parliamentary Divisions of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Jarrow, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of Licence granted to Dorothy Pearson, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, London, N. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITARY WORKS).

Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and

1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of Oriel College, Oxford, on the 11th October 1906 (and sealed on the 29th November 1906) amending Statute VI., Clause 5, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 88.]

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 1st December 1906 (and sealed on the 7th December 1906), amending Statute III., Clause 11, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 89.]

CONGESTION IN IRELAND (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Third Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Minutes of Evidence taken in London, 3rd to 20th November 1906 and Documents relating thereto) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Copy presented, of Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Statement showing the Numbers and Salaries of Teachers in Voluntary Schools in England and Wales for year ended 31st July 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGHS (NON-PAYMENT OF RATES).

Address for "Return showing, for the year 1906, (1) the number of persons summoned in each Metropolitan Borough for Non-payment of Rates; (2) the number of distraint warrants issued in each Borough; (3) the number of committals in each Borough in default of Payment of Rates."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Ship Inn, Pett.

MR. GIBB (Middlesex, Harrow): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the magistrates have just granted the transfer of a licence from the present Ship Inn, about two miles from Pett village, near Hastings, to a new house about to be built about half-a-mile from Pett village; that Pett village has not at present a public-house in or near it and does not want one; that the parish councils concerned have passed unanimous resolutions against the transfer; that memorials, signed by an overwhelming majority of the householders, were presented at the Court in opposition to the transfer; and whether he proposes to take any steps to prevent the people of Pett having a public-house thrust upon them against their will.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have obtained a Report on the case from the clerk to the magistrates who dealt with it, and find that the facts on one side are substantially as stated in the Question. The case appears to have been carefully dealt with by the magistrates, who heard what was to be said on both sides. The decision is entirely in their discretion, and I have no jurisdiction in the matter; but I may point out that the grant of the removal of the licence does not take effect unless confirmed by the East Sussex Quarter Sessions, and that it is open to anyone who opposed the grant to oppose also the confirmation.

Posseckstown Evicted Tenant.

MR. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Miss Margaret M. Clarke, of Posseckstown, Notter, county Meath, has applied to the Estates Commissioners to be reinstated in her farm; and, if so, if the application has been dealt with.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have not received any application for reinstatement from Miss Clarke.

Greenwich Hospital Funds.

Mr. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the number of pensioners from the Seamen Pensioners Reserve who now receive the age pensions from Greenwich Hospital funds, their present average age, and the total amount paid to such pensioners during the year 1906; also similar information with reference to pensioners from the Royal Fleet Reserve, and, if none, then when the first payment out of the funds mentioned will be payable; whether all the pensioners in both the reserves mentioned are actually paid the age pensions from Greenwich funds on attaining fifty-five years, whilst the average age of others eligible outside such reserves was last year stated to be sixty-three years; and whether he will say under what circumstances or by what authority the pensioners from the Seamen Pensioners Reserve and of the Royal Fleet Reserve are entitled to and actually receive their pensions on attaining fifty-five, whilst the others stated do not.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The number of pensioners belonging to the Seamen Pensioners' Reserve now in receipt of age pensions from Greenwich Hospital funds is approximately 1,850, their average age being sixty-one, and the total amount paid in respect of these pensions being £16,630. Pensioners belonging to the Royal Fleet Reserve will not be paid Greenwich Hospital age pensions on reaching the age of fifty-five, but their applications, when received, will be considered side by side with other applications, and they will be awarded pensions at such ages as the funds available may permit. The age pension is paid to pensioners from the Seamen Pensioners Reserve under authority of Act 16 and 17 Vic., cap. 73, and Order in Council of the 29th November 1870, as modified by the King's Regulations, Article 1956a, section c, issued under authority of Order in Council.

Motor Omnibus Breakdowns.

Mr. BURNYEAT (Whitehaven): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to the frequent breakdown of motor omnibuses passing along congested routes such as the Strand and Fleet Street; and whether, seeing that the consequent obstruction of the highway is of serious import to all classes of traffic, he proposes to enforce more stringently any existing regulations, or to make fresh regulations dealing with the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Motor-omnibuses, like all other forms of motor vehicles, occasionally break down, and no regulations can prevent this. The companies concerned endeavour to minimise the resulting obstruction by employing travelling engineers to remedy defects expeditiously. The omnibuses are carefully inspected before being licensed, and there is no reason to believe that fresh regulations are called for. As machinery improves, breakdowns are likely to become less frequent.

Lisnagea Evicted Tenant.

Mr. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from John Doherty, Lisnagea, Kilnagross, with reference to his holding on the Vaugh estate, in county Leitrim, and if any action will be taken in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Answer is in the negative.

Drainage of the Barrow.

Mr. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the Report of the Arterial Drainage Commission, paragraph 13, page 9, in which it is stated that smaller sums than those hitherto estimated might, as in the case of the River Barrow, be expended with advantage, provided that they were devoted to the purpose of specific works forming part of a general and comprehensive scheme of improvement; whether he is aware that the county councils and the representatives of the counties injured by the flooding from the Barrow have agreed on a scheme, pending legislation and a scheme of thorough drainage, which would considerably reduce the floods and the evils resulting therefrom; and whether, seeing that Sir Alexander Binnie, Chairman of the Drainage Commission, stated that the works proposed under the scheme were of a beneficial and permanent character, one of the first works that should be done under any general scheme of drainage, he will favourably consider this scheme and provide the money to carry it out.

MR. MEEHAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the Report of the Arterial Drainage Commission, dated 23rd February, 1907, paragraph 13, page 9, referring to the River Barrow, endorsing the observations of the Allport Commission that the upper portion of the catchment area of the River Barrow extending down to Athy contains an area of 408,000 acres, of which 46,000 acres are flooded or injured by floods, that the basin of the Upper Barrow suffers more from floods than any other part of Ireland, as shown in the figures given above, the proportion which the lands flooded and injured bear to the whole catchment area is exceptionally high, the length of time during which large tracks are covered with water is often considerable, and there are several low-lying towns within the limits of the river basin which suffer directly and indirectly from inundations; that altogether the condition of the district may be described as deplorable; and seeing that this condition has existed for fifty years and that the flooded area and injured lands now exceed 60,000 acres, what steps he proposes to take to provide a remedy for this evil which has caused loss of life and annual destruction of property.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The evidence taken by the Arterial Drainage Commission has not yet been presented to Parliament. It is, I am informed, in course of being printed, and will be ready in a week or two. When the evidence has been received it will be necessary to consider the recommendations of the Commission as a whole in order to decide what legislation may be necessary, and this will obviously take some time. Meanwhile it would not be possible or desirable to consider the question of undertaking drainage schemes in particular cases.

Police Protection in Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of persons afforded constant protection and special protection respectively by police patrols in each county in Ireland on the 1st instant, and the number of police engaged on these duties respectively; and what was the number of other persons, not included in this list, to whom similar protection was afforded during the period 1st January, 1906 to 29th February, 1907, but from whom protection was withdrawn because the necessity for it had ceased.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer to my Answer to the similar Question put by the hon. Member for Mid Armagh on the 13th instant.† During the month of February, 1907, special police protection was withdrawn in two cases, viz.—one in King's County and one in county Kerry. With this addition the former answer applies to the present Question.

Agrarian Outrages in Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of agrarian outrages in Ireland in the years 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and the months of January and February, 1907, under the following heads: total agrarian outrages, including threatening letters and excluding threatening letters; particular crimes under the following heads: homicides; firing at the person; assault with intent to murder; assault endangering life; incendiary fires; killing, cutting, or maiming cattle; attacking houses; and firing into dwellings.

---

† See Cols. 10–12.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The following table gives the information asked for:—

Nature of Outrage.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Jan. 1907.	Feb. 1907.
Homicide - - - - -	2	1	—	2	—	—	—
Firing at the person - -	2	1	1	2	3	1	—
Assault with intent to murder	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Assault endangering life - -	3	1	1	1	2	—	—
Incendiary fire - - - -	41	42	28	42	47	2	1
Killing, cutting, or maiming cattle - - - - -	22	9	11	14	11	—	—
Attacking houses - - -	1	2	—	1	—	—	—
Firing into dwellings - -	4	6	12	9	9	1	1
Other offences (exclusive of threatening letters) - -	46	49	48	65	57	4	5
Total (exclusive of threatening letters) - - -	121	112	101	136	129	8	7
Threatening letters - -	132	83	105	143	105	8	4
Grand total (including threatening letters) - - -	253	195	206	279	234	16	11

Boycotting in Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of persons wholly boycotted in Ireland on the 1st instant; the number of persons partially boycotted on the same date, and the number of other persons affected by boycotting whose cases were recorded in the Returns made by the constabulary authorities, but which are not regarded as falling into the category of persons wholly or partially boycotted; and will he also define the classification followed by the authorities in recording cases of boycotting under each of these heads.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary informs me that on the 1st instant there were three cases under the head of wholly boycotted, and seven under that of partially boycotted. The number of cases in which persons were boycotted in a minor degree, or in which attempts were made to boycott, was seventy-three. Serious cases of boycotting are those in which the boycotted person's means of livelihood are affected, as by the refusal to sell provisions to him in local shops, the refusal of labourers to work for him, the refusal of neighbours to buy from or sell to him, and such like. When several such conditions prevail, and the person is gravely affected, the person is regarded as wholly boycotted. When the circumstances are not so grave, but the person is still seriously affected, the case is regarded as one of partial boycotting. When the boycotting consists of petty isolated acts, as distinguished from organised or sustained boycotting, or when an attempt is made to boycott, but the effect is inappreciable, the case falls within the third category mentioned.

Nairobi Railway—British East Africa.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the land one mile on each side of the railway line at Nairobi, in British East Africa, is Crown property.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The land in question was originally the property of the Crown, and, so far as the Secretary of State knows, no part of it has been alienated in freehold. The exact facts will be shown in the Return for which the hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme has moved.

Boy Clerks in the Civil Service.

Mr. PARKER (Halifax): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the number of boy clerks and boy copyists entered into the Civil Service during the years 1904, 1905, and 1906; also the number of boy clerks and boy copyists who, during those years, were appointed to situations in the Second Division, Excise and Customs.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I. The number of boy clerks† certificated by the Civil Service Commissioners during the years 1904 to 1906 are, I am informed, as follows:—

In 1904 - -	986
In 1905 - -	596
In 1906 - -	923
Total -	2,505

II. The numbers of boy clerks (or boy copyists) whether serving or superannuated, who were certificated for the following appointments during the years 1904 to 1906 are as given below:—

Appointments.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Total.
Second Division clerks - - -	27	53	81	161
Excise assistants - - - -	6	11	11	28
Customs assistants - - -	8	11	5	24
Customs port clerks - - -	—	2	—	2
Total - - - -	41	77	97	215

I understand that the numbers of boy clerks (or boy copyists) serving or superannuated, who were certificated as assistant clerks (abstractors) during the same years are as follows:—

In 1904 - -	180
In 1905 - -	246
In 1906 - -	281
Total -	707

Registry of Deeds, Dublin.

Mr. MEEHAN: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the work of the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, has increased by 30 per cent. during the past six years, owing chiefly to negotiation under the Land Purchase Act; that dissatisfaction prevails amongst the existing staff due to the strain thus put upon them without any corresponding remuneration and to the organisation of the office; and whether the Treasury will give the claims of the staff an early consideration.

---

† The title "boy copyist" was changed to "boy clerks" in 1902.

MR. MEEHAN: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware if a memorial from the staff of the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, was forwarded to the registrar for transmission to the Treasury on the 4th January, 1906, whether the transmission of the memorial has been delayed through the absence of the registrar, the assistant registrar not having authority to deal with the matter; and whether, in the event of the illness of the head of the department proving to be protracted, steps are to be taken to have this matter dealt with.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am aware that there has been a considerable increase in the work of the Registry of Deeds, but I have no reason to think that this increase has put any undue strain on the staff. I understand that the memorial referred to was forwarded to the Registrar for transmission to the Treasury on 4th January, 1907. The Registrar was at that date, and has since been, precluded by illness from attending to business. In the event of his illness proving to be protracted, and the memorial being forwarded to the Treasury by the Assistant Registrar, it will be taken into consideration.

Clerks in Board of Works, Dublin.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will ask the Board of Works to explain the reason why all applications from Second Division clerks for the four increments on reaching £100 per annum have been ignored; and if the responsibility for this action rests with the Secretary, because the majority of the applicants are Roman Catholics.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that no assistant clerks, new class, in the Board of Works, Dublin, have yet been promoted to the Second Division, although there are at least four of that class elegible for such promotion by length of service and by the importance of the work performed by them; and will he ask the Board of Works why, when applications for promotion were made and recommended some time ago, no replies were received.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman*). If the hon. Member will allow me I will reply to his Question for to-morrow at the same time. The grant of four increments to a Second Division clerk, and the promotion of an assistant clerk to the Second Division, are both under Order in Council confined to cases of exceptional merit. The Board of Works inform me that they have dealt personally with all applications, and have dealt with them on their merits, and without reference to, or knowledge of, the religion of the applicants. They are not aware of any case in which an application has been left without reply.

National Physical Laboratory.

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ (Warwickshire, Tamworth): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, what are the exact terms of reference to the Treasury Committee recently appointed to inquire into the administration and conduct of the National Physical Laboratory.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman*). The Committee was appointed "to inquire generally into the work now performed at the National Physical Laboratory, with special reference to—(1) the character of the mechanical, physical, and chemical tests undertaken there; (2) the possibility of their interfering unduly with the business of other agencies; (3) the desirability of publishing the results of all such testing work; and to report (1) whether having regard to the industrial interests of the country generally and to those of private agencies, any change is desirable in the scope of the work of the laboratory; and (2) on what lines any further development of its business should proceed."

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether the Treasury Committee recently appointed to inquire into the administration and conduct of the National Physical Laboratory was appointed by the Treasury or by any body or society other than the Treasury; and, if so, by what body or society.

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether any of the members of the Treasury Committee recently appointed to inquire into the administration and conduct of the National Physical Laboratory were appointed after consultation with, and at the suggestion of, any person connected with the National Physical Laboratory, either as a member of the Committee of that body or of the staff of the National Physical Laboratory.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman*). I think the hon. Baronet will find an Answer to these two Questions in the reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Ealing on the 7th instant.†

Market Prices of Malting Barley.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can give quantities and prices of malting barley sold during the months of October, November, and December, 1906, in the following markets, with the weight per bushel in each market, Norwich, Lincoln, Bury St. Edmund's, Berwick, Cambridge, Bishop's Stortford, Chelmsford, York and Darlington.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) It is not possible for me to give the hon. Member the information he desires as to the quantities and prices of malting barley, inasmuch as the Returns received under the Corn Returns Act do not distinguish malting barley from barley used for other purposes. We are making inquiries as to the weight per bushel of the barley sold at Lincoln, Bury St. Edmund's, and Berwick, but at all the other markets named in the Question it is sold by weight or weighed measures at 448 lbs. to the quarter, or 56 lbs. to the bushel.

Cashel Postmastership.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General, whether he could state if there was no officer in Ireland fitted for promotion to the postmastership of Cashel, which was recently filled by an official from Scotland; whether he will say in what respects Mr. Goudie was considered the best qualified: and whether he will state the number of applications he received from officials in Ireland, and the length of service of each candidate.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Mr. Goudie possessess all the qualifications required, and was, in my opinion, the most suitable candidate for the post. He had longer service than the best qualified of the Irish candidates. Particulars of the applications received are never published.

Telephones in County Cork.

MR. A. ROCHE (Cork): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has received resolutions from the Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies in the South of Ireland in support of a telephonic connection between Cork and the important towns of Fermoy, Bantry, Charleville, and Youghal; and, if so, will steps be taken to carry this project into effect.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have received a copy of the resolution referred to by the hon. Member. The question of the extension of the Post Office telephone system in the South-West of Ireland has engaged my careful attention for some time past. Recent inquiries, however, at the places named, show that little local support would be given to telephone exchanges except at Fermoy and Bandon. Even in those towns the probable revenue would not cover the estimated cost of the service, but I hope shortly to be able to offer to extend the telephone system to those two places under guarantees, and elsewhere if the guarantee is forthcoming.

Cotton Gambles.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that, under manipulation, the prices of the American cotton futures contract, as used on the Liverpool exchange, with nearly 1,000,000 bales of cotton in that port and with only a very small quantity in New York, is selling at some 200 points over New York and twenty-five points over new crops for 1907–8 causing wide-spread mischief to the Lancashire spinners and manufacturers as well as to merchants and importers; whether he is aware that this artificial difference ha enabled Liverpool manipulators to open up enormous gambling operations in the shape of straddles between Liverpool and America; and whether, under these circumstances, His Majesty's Government will take steps to safeguard the cotton industry from these gambling operations and manipulations solely made possible under the present form of futures contract as practised at Liverpool.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 986.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I am aware that, according to quotations published in the Press, there is at present some considerable difference between the Liverpool and New York prices of cotton for future delivery, but I find no evidence, from inquiries I have made in Lancashire, of any mischievous result arising therefrom in this country. While I have no sympathy with gambling operations, properly so-called, I am not prepared to take any steps in the direction of restricting legitimate dealings in "future" contracts.

Tonnage Clauses in Harbour and Port Bills.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what are the intentions of the Board with regard to the tonnage clauses contained in the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Bill, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill, the Cardiff Railway Bill, the Taff Vale Railway Bill and the Leith Harbour and Docks Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I propose to introduce at an early date a Bill dealing generally with the question of varying the deductions from the gross registered tonnage of vessels now permitted by statute in order to arrive at the basis on which harbour and pilotage dues are to be levied. This Bill will, I hope, be referred to a strong Select Committee. In these circumstances I have suggested to the promoters of the Cardiff Railway Bill and the Leith Harbour and Docks Bills that they should withdraw those Bills which deal only with this question. As regards other Bills of this session in which the question is raised *inter alia*, I have suggested to the promoters that they should withdraw the clauses dealing with this particular matter.

Land Allotments—Council Appeals.

MR. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N.W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board how many appeals have been made to the Board by parish councils and district councils respectively under Section 9, Sub-section 4, of The Local Government Act, 1894; and if he can give the number of appeals granted and refused.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) There have been no appeals to the Board by district councils against refusals by county councils to make orders under the sub-section mentioned. There have been three cases in which parish councils have appealed. In one of them the appeal was not proceeded with, and in the remaining two the appeal was unsuccessful. In one of these two cases it appeared that it would not be practicable to secure the financial balance contemplated by Section 2 (2) of The Allotments Acts, 1887, and in the other the parish council succeeded, whilst the appeal was pending, in obtaining some land in lieu of part of that which they had proposed to acquire, whilst as to the rest their proposals would have involved a contravention of Section 10 (6) (c) of The Local Government Act, 1894.

London Parochial Infirmaries and Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

MR. W. PEARCE (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state which metropolitan parochial infirmaries have special wards for the treatment of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis; and can the Local Government Board encourage the establishment of such wards.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) In the majority of the metropolitan Poor Law infirmaries special wards are set aside for these cases. The general practice is to extend this system, and I desire to encourage it in every way in my power.

Vaccination.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if Dr. Fletcher reported on the case of Olive Hunt, who died after vaccination; if the same Dr. Fletcher reported on the case of Willy Kellam, vaccinated on 30th October, 1906; if the wound in this case took seventy-two days to heal; and if he will lay a copy of Dr. Fletcher's Reports upon the Table of the House, or give a copy of the Report to the relatives.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Dr. Fletcher reported on both these cases. I do not know the precise number of days which the wound took to heal in the case of Kellam. The Reports were made for my information and are confidential documents. Hence I could not take the course suggested in the last part of the Question.

Cost of Pauperism.

MR. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that, according to the monthly statement of pauperism in England and Wales, there were, in 1907, 7·7 indoor and 15·7 outdoor paupers per thousand respectively, while in the London district the figures are approximately reversed, that is to say 16·8 indoor and 9·8 outdoor per thousand; will he state the cost per thousand paupers in the London district and also in England and Wales.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware of the figures referred to. The cost of relief per thousand paupers for a year, according to the latest figures available, was about £27,700 in London and about £15,800 in England and Wales.

Bute Coastguard.

MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the salary paid for medical attendance on the coastguard at Lamlash and Kildonan, respectively, in the county of Bute.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Dr. Robert Jamieson, surgeon and agent, who attends both the Lamlash and Kildonan detachments, is not in receipt of a fixed salary, but is paid at the ordinary rate laid down in the instructions to Admiralty surgeons and agents. If my hon. friend wishes, I can furnish him with a statement of the actual amount paid to Dr. Jamieson during the last financial year in respect of these two stations.

Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the quinquennial valuation of the Sun Life Assurance Society for the period ending 31st December, 1906, was completed within two months of that date; whether he is aware that the amount of the above-named insurance company's premium income, amount insured, and the number of the beneficiaries, is at least ten times as great as in the case of the Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund; whether, seeing that the staff at the India Office are fully employed on their current work, he will in future arrange for outside aid in procuring the quinquennial valuation of the Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund; and whether he can yet name a date for the completion and publication of the quinquennial valuation of the Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund for the period ending in 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I do not think that the valuation of assets and liabilities arising under Indian Military Service Family Pensions regulations can be compared with the valuation of an English assurance society. In a life assurance society the liability of the company generally terminates with the death of the premium payer. In the Indian Family Pension funds the liability to pay out commences from that date, and sometimes extends for over 80 years. The recognised mortality tables used by English life assurance companies are not applicable to the lives of Anglo-Indians, and the old tables compiled in the time of the East India Company no longer represent existing vital statistics, and new tables have to be quinquennially prepared or revised in order to arrive at an equitable valuation. I will endeavour to arrange for the preparation and publication of the quinquennial valuations, both civil and military, at a much earlier date. As stated in my reply dated the 14th February, the valuation as on 31st March, 1903, is now in the hands of a consulting actuary for his independent investigation and report.

Enlistment in the Army Reserves.

MR. ARNOLD FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any change had been made, or is proposed, in the terms of enlistment, conditions of service, or liability on mobilisation, of the men in Schedule D of the Army Reserve; if so, what is the exact nature of such change, when will it become operative, and to what categories of men.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply is in the negative.

Volunteer Adjutants.

MR. PARTINGTON (Derbyshire, High Peak): To ask the Secretary of State for War how many of the Volunteer officers acting as adjutants are holding temporary appointments; to which branches of the Volunteer Service they are attached; and how many are appointed to county battalions with one or more detachments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) At the present moment there are twenty-seven Volunteer officers holding temporary appointments as adjutants in the Volunteer force. Of these seventeen belong to the artillery, two to the engineers, and eight to the infantry. Of these infantry adjutants three belong to county battalions with one or more detachments.

Flogging in the Army.

MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is now prepared to make any statement as to the non-applicability of the limitations of the powers of the Secretary of State contained in Section 133, sub-section 2, of the Army Act, in the case of the exercise of such powers by the Officer Commanding-in-Chief in the field, as provided by the Army (Annual) Bill, page 5, line 41, and page 6, lines 1 to 7.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I propose to move an Amendment in Committee to the clause in question to make it quite clear that the Commander-in-Chief in the field shall have no powers to authorise the infliction of flogging for any offence.

Judicial Appeals.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): To ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the fact that, in consequence of both divisions of the Court of Appeal (England) having been engaged during the current sitting in hearing appeals from the King's Bench and Probate Divisions, there is now a serious accumulation of appeals from the Chancery Division; and whether it is proposed that, apart from the Judicature Bill, which appears likely to meet with considerable opposition, any steps shall be taken to reduce these arrears at an early date.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The Lord Chancellor informs me that it is not practicable to reduce these appeals more rapidly unless the Judicature Bill be passed and that is the principal reason for desiring that it should be passed. The Court of Appeal is obliged to arrange the cases which it hears with some regard to the comparative arrears from the different divisions.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Volunteers and the New Army Scheme.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Volunteers who have served for years will be required under the new scheme to re-enlist upon the new conditions, or whether Volunteers now serving will be permitted to fulfil their present engagements upon the terms under which they enlisted.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The Territorial Force will be raised and maintained by the county associations, which bodies, as they come into existence, will exercise authority only under the terms of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill. Units of the existing Auxiliary Forces will be transferred to the Territorial Force by Order in Council; but the conditions of service of no individual now serving will be altered without his consent.

Pensioners and Civil Employment.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give the information received from Harrods, Limited, with reference to the employment of soldiers, with pensions, at a wage of 5s. per week.

MR. HALDANE: I am informed that Messrs. Harrods have not dismissed a single civilian packer; that there are at present eight soldiers under instruction, and that they are quite independent of and in excess of the ordinary staff of civilian packers.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that firms which employ Army Reserve men do often take into consideration the amount of their pensions when fixing their wages, and will he do what he can to prevent that kind of thing in future?

MR. HALDANE: I can only say I have given instructions that the practice, if it exists, shall be discouraged in every possible way.

Camp Allowances.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary for War whether the Army rate of pay, mentioned in the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, includes any extra allowances beyond that now given to soldiers for messing and service pay; if he can state the total amount to be paid per day whilst in camp for pay and allowances to a single man and a married man respectively; and if any deductions are to be made for messing or other charges.

MR. HALDANE: The intention is that all ranks in the Territorial Army shall draw Army rates of pay without deduction. A sergeant of infantry will thus receive 2s. 4d. a day, a corporal 1s. 8d. and a private 1s.; in other arms the rates are higher. In addition every man will draw the messing allowance of 3d. a day so long as a grocery ration is not issued free, and the families of non-commissioned officers will draw separation allowance. Proficiency pay which takes the place of service pay cannot be obtained by the regular soldier unless he has two years colour service and is on a "long" engagement; the terms of service in the Territorial Army accordingly will not qualify a man to receive this pay.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) asked why the separation allowance was only to be granted to non-commissioned officers, and not to corporals, lance-corporals, and privates.

MR. HALDANE was understood to say the non-commissioned officers were out for a longer time and required more allowance.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Oh no, not all.

MR. MYER asked whether the Territorial Army when in camp would receive any compensation for loss of wages.

MR. HALDANE: They receive the Army rates of pay; that is the only compensation we can give them.

Volunteer Uniforms.

MR. MYER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the continual necessity for renewing uniforms of Volunteers, and in order to save wasted expenditure, he can state if there is any intention to clothe the second line as a whole in any particularly coloured cloth for service or other dress.

MR. HALDANE: Service dress will be provided for the whole of the Territorial Force.

Territorial Forces Bill.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if, having regard to the fact that he invited some twenty of the best known officers of the Auxiliary Forces to advise him last year as to the best method of forming a Territorial Army, he proposes to consult with them as to the details of the Bill he has introduced, and to learn their views as to the suggested destruction of the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, before asking the House to agree to a Second Reading.

MR. HALDANE: During the early stages of the present scheme of reorganisation I wished for information upon a number of specific points upon which I addressed questions to the Committee to which the hon. Member refers. The discussions and advices of the Committee upon those points were of great value to me. Now that a Bill is before the House I do not think that any advantage would be gained by consulting the Committee to which the hon. Member alludes.

Engineer Service—Civil Staff.

Mr. C. H. CORBETT (Sussex, East Grinstead): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now state when the Army Council will be ready to give a decision in the matter of the pay and promotion of the civil staff for engineer services.

Mr. HALDANE: The matter is still under consideration, and it is not yet possible to say when a decision will be arrived at.

Press Laws in India.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. Jotindranath Sen, editor of the *Allahabad Citizen*, was cited to appear before the district magistrate of Allahabad on 4th February with respect to a certain article that appeared in the *Citizen* of 21st January regarding the alleged misarrangement of the mela at Tribeni, and was asked the name of his informant, which Mr. Jotindranath Sen refused to give, and was then asked by the district magistrate to sign a statement of the interview; and whether he will inform the House as to the authority under which these proceedings were taken, and whether the purpose of the proceedings was to charge Mr. Jotindranath Sen with the crime of sedition.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Hobhouse, Bristol, E.): I have seen in the newspapers reports to the effect stated. I have no information as to the authority under which the proceedings in question, if they ever took place, were taken, or as to their purpose.

Champaran Outrage.

*Mr. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether all or any of the Bengali cultivators who beat to death Mr. Bloomfield, an indigo planter of Champaran, have been brought to justice.

Mr. HOBHOUSE: No information has reached me as to the result of the inquiry into the circumstances of the murder of Mr. Bloomfield, but I have no doubt that every effort will be made to bring the murderers to justice.

*Mr. REES: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that outrages such as these, formerly so rare, are now becoming more frequent, and does he not think that special measures are necessary for the protection of our fellow subjects?

Mr. HOBHOUSE: I do not think the Secretary of State has any information leading him to believe that such cases are at all common.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): Will the inquiry be made by cable? I put this Question a fortnight ago, and we have as yet got no satisfactory Answer.

Mr. HOBHOUSE: Yes, I think I can undertake to send a cable message.

Uganda Railway.

Mr. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the Uganda Railway Government strip, whether these lands are in the position of a security for the money advanced by the Imperial Government to build the railway; and, if so, whether he will make arrangements that no more of this land be alienated without the sums realised or accruing being allocated specially to the reduction of this debt, instead of being used as at present for current expenditure of the Colony.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): The zone or strip originated in the days when the future *status* of the railway was still undetermined, and the principle was then laid down that the receipts therefrom should be set off against the capital cost of construction. Now that the railway has become a branch of the Protectorate Administration the retention of the zone as a separate estate is anomalous and administratively inconvenient; and so long as the Protectorate is not self-supporting the appropriation by this country of the profits on the zone does not secure any real repayment to the British Exchequer. In these circumstances His Majesty's Government have decided that the question of repayments on account of the capital cost of the railway shall be deferred until the Protectorate can dispense with an Imperial Grant-in-aid; and that the railway zone shall cease to be treated as a separate estate, the revenue derived therefrom being treated in the same way as the receipts accruing from other lands in the Protectorate.

Canada and the Navigation Conference.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the extensive coast line of Canada, His Majesty's Government will consider the propriety of inviting Canada to be represented at the forthcoming Navigation Conference, when the power of the Colonies with reference to the regulation of coasting trade is to be discussed.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have nothing to add to the reply given on the 18th instant by the right hon. the President of the Board of Trade to a similar Question.†

Railways in Northern Nigeria.

MR. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is in a position to make any further statement as to the proposed railway development in Northern Nigeria.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir. I regret that I am unable to make any further statement at present.

MR. LYELL: When will the hon. Gentleman be able to give the information?

MR. CHURCHILL: I am afraid I cannot indicate any date at present.

Governors and Commercial Enterprises.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the recent disclosures in Ceylon, Fiji, and West Africa, where the governors after retirement had acquired commercial monopolies of various kinds adverse to the interests of these Colonies, detrimental to good and honest government, and contrary to the principles of free trade, the Secretary of State for the Colonies intends to take any steps to put a stop to these abuses; and, if so, will he say what these steps are.

MR. CHURCHILL: Some weeks ago the Secretary of State addressed a communication to the governors on the subject of ex-governors engaging in commercial enterprises in the Colonies with which they have been connected. The Secretary of State desires that it should not be assumed that he accepts the wording of this Question as making a true presentment of the facts of the particular cases to which it refers.

MR. MENZIES (Lanarkshire, S.): In view of what was done in connection with the Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, would it not be possible in the future to make it a condition of the appointment of any governor that he should not, during his period of office or after, use the knowledge he acquired in the Colony for the purposes of personal gain?

MR. CHURCHILL: Obviously it is quite impossible to make any regulation controlling the actions of governors after they have left His Majesty's service. The Secretary of State has issued a circular discouraging the practices complained of.

MR. SMEATON: But what is the use of the circular in view of what has happened in Ceylon and West Africa, where the ex-governor purchased concessions from outsiders? Would it not be better to bring in legislation prohibiting the practice?

MR. CHURCHILL: I do not think that that would be the most convenient course.

New Caledonia.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the peoples of Australasia have made frequent protests against the use of New Caledonia as a penal settlement by the French authorities in close proximity to their shores, and if, bearing those protests in mind, His Majesty's Government made any, and, if so, what, representation to the friendly consideration of our French allies in the course of the negotiations for the enforced labour of the New Hebrideans, with regard to this out-of-date method of dealing with Europeans convicts; and if those representations were received by the French Government in the spirit of the comity of nations.

---

† See Cols. 474–5.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir Edward GREY): The Australian Government have on several occasions called the attention of His Majesty's Government to the use of New Caledonia as a penal settlement by the French authorities, and communications have been made to the French Government on the subject. These representations have been received in the most friendly spirit by the Government of the Republic, but they have not felt themselves in a position to give any definite pledge of policy in the matter, though they have stated that there was no present intention of reviving the practice. In reply to a representation made to them in May last His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris received a verbal assurance that there was no intention of renewing the system of sending convict labour to the island, but if any change of system were contemplated, they would not fail to inform Sir F. Bertie so as to enable him to warn His Majesty's Government. No further intimation on the subject has since been received. There is, and will be, no question of enforced labour in the New Hebrides and no negotiations have taken place respecting it.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Are French convicts still being sent there?

MR. RUNCIMAN: The assurance given by the French Republic is that there is no intention of renewing the system.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): May I ask the hon. Gentleman whether, if it is the fact that convicts are sent there for life, it would not be a great many years before New Caledonia ceased to be a penal settlement?

MR. RUNCIMAN: The hon. Member is just as good a judge of the period of longevity as I am.

The Hague Conference.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the instructions to be given to the representatives of Great Britain at the Hague Conference will be previously communicated to the House.

MR. RUNCIMAN: It will be desirable to follow the precedent of the the previous Conference, when it was stated that any public announcement beforehand of the instructions given to the British Delegates was inexpedient.

Russian Tea Duties.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any representations have been made, or can properly be made, to the Russian Government respecting the duty levied on Indian tea of upwards of 200 per cent. *ad valorem*, but for the excessive nature of which an important trade in Indian teas could be done with the Russian Empire.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Representations on this subject were made to the Russian Government in September, 1905, but, as the hon. Member for Central Hull was informed on the 22nd March last,† they led to no result. His Majesty's Government do not propose to pursue the subject any further.

*MR. REES: Can the hon. Gentleman tell us the effect of the duty or the quantity of tea imported into Russia?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am afraid I cannot say the precise effect, but I am informed that the quantity of Indian tea imported into Russia has gone up considerably in the last twelve months.

MR. REES: Would not this be a favourable opportunity to approach the Russian Government on the subject?

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): Was not the imposition of these high duties by Russia by way of retaliation for the sugar bounties?

[No Answer was returned.]

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 618.

Russian Troops at Teheran.

MR. LYNCH (Yorks, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Russian troops have arrived in Persia to guard the Russian Legation and the Consulates; and whether any similar steps are being taken by His Majesty's Government.

MR. RUNCIMAN: His Majesty's Ministers at Teheran has reported that small reinforcements have been sent to the guards at the Russian Legation at Teheran and Russian Consulates at Tabriz and Urmia. It is not considered that any similar steps on the part of His Majesty's Government are necessary or desirable at present

Macedonian Budget—Charges for Turkish Troops.

MR. LYNCH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state the number of Turkish troops charged to the Macedonian Budget during 1906; and whether any extra expenditure in connection with the contemplated reorganisation of the 3rd Army Corps at Salonica will be chargeable to that Bubget.

MR. RUNCIMAN: His Majesty's Government have no exact information as to the number of Turkish troops charged to the Macedonian Budget at any time. Any extra military expenditure, beyond that provided for in the Budget, is not chargeable to the revenue of Macedonia.

MR. LYNCH pressed for fuller information as to the charges.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My Answer contains the fullest information at the command of the Foreign Office.

MR. LYNCH was understood to suggest that the financial delegate might supply the information.

MR. RUNCIMAN: We are in constant communication with him, and my Answer contains the fullest information we have.

Commercial Agent in the United States.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs why £700 is still provided for a commercial agent in the United States seeing that by the new arrangement an allowance of £100 at Washington is granted for a secretary in the diplomatic service for doing the work of the commercial attaché.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The appointment of the commercial agent in the United States does not expire until 31st March, 1908, and his services will therefore be retained until that date. Meanwhile, it does not appear that His Majesty's Embassy at Washington should be excluded from the operation of the new scheme as to commercial attachés.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): Seeing that the salary of the British Ambassador to the United States has been raised from £3,000 to £10,000, could he not pay for a commercial agent?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Opium Traffic.

MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government has received a proposal from the United States Government for the appointment of a Commission or Conference respecting the opium traffic in the East of Asia; if so, whether he can give particulars of the proposal; what has been the response of His Majesty's Government thereto; and how the matter now stands.

MR. RUNCIMAN: In reply to inquiries, the United States Government are willing to take part in a Joint International Commission of Investigation, if certain other Powers are likewise willing, and if the inquiry extends to the production of opium in China as well as to the import of foreign opium. The United States Government have also been told that His Majesty's Government consider that procedure by way of a Commission would seem better adapted than a Conference for an investigation of the facts of the opium trade, and of the consequences of the opium habit in the Far East. A Conference, if convened now, might find that the materials before it were insufficient for arriving at a definite recommendation. If, however, the other Powers consulted prefer procedure by way of a Conference, His Majesty's Government do not desire to press this view.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): Will this preclude the Government from continuing their negotiations with China?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I should like notice of that Question.

Commercial Attachés.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the stationing of commercial attachés in France, Japan, China, and Turkey has been found to be satisfactory.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Answer is in the affirmative.

Whisky Production.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the quantity of pot still and patent still whisky produced in England, Ireland, and Scotland in 1906, and the quantity produced in 1896 and 1886, respectively.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): The desired information cannot be given, as the Inland Revenue accounts do not distinguish between pot still and patent still spirit. The total quantities of spirits produced in each part of the United Kingdom will be found in the annual Reports of the Board of Inland Revenue.

MR. LEA: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman arrange for these figures to be obtained by the Excise authorities? They are of great importance to the trade.

MR. ASQUITH: As far as I know there are no means of distinguishing them.

Stock Transfer Fees.

MR. G. H. FABER (Boston): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can see his way to impose a transfer fee on all American railway stocks dealt in on the London Stock Exchange on the same scale as now exists on British railway stocks, seeing that, although American railway certificates are in effect warrants to bearer, they escape the duties payable on bearer warrants of English undertakings as imposed by the Companies Act, 1867, and the Stamp Act of 1891.

MR. ASQUITH: A stamp duty of 1s. per £1,000 was imposed by Sections 4 and 6 of the Finance Act, 1899, on share certificates of American railways on their first transfer or negotiation in the United Kingdom, and this was considered to be as heavy a duty as the circumstances would allow.

Dividends on Mine Earnings.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if income tax is charged on the full dividends paid by mining companies which have only a few years life before them, and where a large part of the dividend must be applied by the shareholders to replace capital which is wasting; and, if so, whether there is any claim which can be made by the shareholders for repayment of Income Tax so overpaid.

MR. ASQUITH: Income Tax is charged on the full "profits" (not dividends) from mines, ascertained as provided by the Income Tax Act of 1842, in Rule III. (2) and Rule IV. (5) of Schedule A., and no allowance is admissible on account of exhaustion of a mine. The law on the subject was very fully discussed and expounded by Lord Blackburn in the case "Coltness Iron Company *v.* Black" in the House of Lords, 1881.

Names of Licensed Houses.

MR. FIENNES (Oxfordshire, Banbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if there are licensed houses in certain parts of London known to the police by the names of the cow houses and cow sheds; and, if so, whether he can state the reason given by the police for these names.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The terms referred to are not police terms, and I am afraid I cannot enter into the question of their meaning.

In reply to a further Question by Mr. FIENNES, MR. GLADSTONE said the hon. Member apparently understood the usual meaning of the phrase known to the police.

Rate Summonses.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a summons issued in the parish of Sutton, in the county of Surrey, and returnable on the 14th March, 1907, for the recovery of 5s, part of a rate made by the Overseers of the Poor on the 29th October, 1906, the costs were 3s. 6d., being 2s. 6d. fee to the clerk of the justices, and 1s. to the constable for serving the summons; and, seeing that in the borough of Wandsworth, county of London, the inclusive charge for summons and service is 6d., will he state why so high a fee as 2s. 6d. was allowed to the justices' clerk at Sutton.

MR. GLADSTONE: Under a table of fees payable to Justices' Clerks in Surrey, which was settled in 1901, 2s. 6d. is the proper charge for the summons and hearing in a rate case, and 1s. is chargeable by the police at Sutton for serving the summons. No change can be made in the table of Justices' Clerks fees except at the instance of the Standing Joint Committee, to whom any representations on the subject should be addressed. The fees mentioned are not unusual in counties; I have no information as to fees charged in Wandsworth Borough.

Inspection of Laundries.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what day before Easter he proposes to introduce a Bill dealing with the inspection of laundries in connection with religious institutions.

MR. GLADSTONE: This Bill will be introduced in another place either before Easter or immediately after the holidays.

Complaints against Railway Companies.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade how many complaints against railway companies under Section 31 of The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, have been received by the Board of Trade during each of the years 1904, 1905, and 1906.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The complaints received under the section in question in the years 1904, 1905, and 1906, numbered 76, 69, and 108 respectively. These do not include general complaints that are received from trade organisations as to railway charges and facilities.

Conveyance at Owner's Risk.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Joint Claims Committee of the English and Welsh railway companies has recently issued notices to some packed parcels carriers and parcels agents, threatening them that, if they pay claims upon parcels consigned for conveyance by passenger train at owner's risk without the authority of the railway companies, the arrangement under which the fee for collection of parcels is allowed will be cancelled; whether he is aware that it is the invariable custom of railway companies to reject all claims upon goods carried at owner's risk rates; and whether he proposes to take any steps to suppress this system of hampering trade.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am making inquiry with regard to the issue of any such notices as are mentioned by my hon. friend, and will inform him of the result. My information does not support the allegation that railway companies reject all claims in respect of goods carried at owner's risk. The matter is, however, dealt with by a Bill which this House has already read a second time.

Bureau for Agricultural Labourers.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can see his way to organise an agricultural labour bureau under the Board of Agriculture, where labourers desirous of getting back to the land could be put into communication with employers seeking such persons, to their mutual advantage.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): My noble friend is of opinion that there are considerable objections to the establishment of a labour bureau by a Government Department and he cannot therefore see his way to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion. Something might, however, be done through existing agencies, and I should be glad to confer personally with the hon. Member on the subject.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Mr. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the proposal of the town council of Bournemouth to erect an infectious diseases hospital in the parish of Kinson, Bournemouth being in Hampshire and Kinson in Dorset; whether the inhabitants of Kinson have written to the Local Government Board protesting against the proposal on the ground that their water supply is drawn from a stream flowing close to the proposed site for the hospital and almost certain to be contaminated from it; and what steps he intends to take in the matter.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): The Chairman of the Kinson Parish Meeting has communicated to me the effect of a resolution passed by the parish meeting protesting against this proposal. I have no authority to interfere in the matter unless the town council apply for sanction to a loan for the purpose of defraying the cost of providing the hospital. I have not at present received any such application, but in the event of my doing so I will, before complying with it, give full consideration to all the circumstances of the case.

Mr. LYELL: Does the right hon. Gentleman say that the Local Govern-Board has no power to prevent a municipal authority thus prejudicing the value of property in a given neighbourhood unless a loan is applied for.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: That is so.

Mr. LYELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman take any steps to secure an alteration of the law to prevent that?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I will, of course, consider any representations made to me.

Carnarvon and Stirling Castles.

Sir F. BANBURY (City of London): To ask the First Commissioner of Works what sums have been allotted to the maintenance and repair of Carnarvon and Stirling Castles.

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale): The sum alloted in the Estimates for 1907–8 to Carnarvon Castle is £1,000, and to Stirling Castle £520.

Welsh Education Department.

Sir F. BANBURY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when the organisation of the Welsh Education Department is expected to be in full working order, involving an accompanying reduction of the English staff.

The SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.): As my right hon. friend has already stated, the organisation of the Welsh Department is at present in a transitional state, and it is impossible for me to say when any changes consequent upon its being in full working order can be effected.

Gateshead Education Committee.

Mr. J. W. TAYLOR (Durham Chester-le-Street): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if his attention has been called to a notice issued by the Gateshead Education Committee stating that, after the end of March, all children attending Gateshead schools but living in the administrative county of Durham would be excluded; if this is caused by the Durham County Education Committee refusing to enter into a mutual arrangement with the Gateshead Education Committee; and, if so, will he take steps to bring the parties together, and thus prevent much inconvenience to children attending Gateshead schools.

Mr. LOUGH: The Answer to the first two paragraphs is in the affirmative. The Board of Education have no power to compel a Local Education Authority to enter into an agreement under Section 52 of the Elementary Education Act 1870, but they have endeavoured, so far without success, to persuade the parties to come to terms.

Secondary Schools.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Eccleshall): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he expects to publish the new regulations connected with secondary schools.

MR. LOUGH: These Regulations are now under the President's consideration, but I regret it is impossible at present to say on what date they will be issued.

Legal Advisers of the Welsh Education Department.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the existing legal advisers of the Board of Education will give advice to the Welsh Department, or whether that Department will have its own legal staff.

MR. LOUGH: The services of the Board's existing legal advisers will be at the disposal of the Welsh Department should they be required.

Llanychan School.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he can now state what grounds the local education authority for Denbighshire have advanced for holding the school at Llanychan to be unnecessary; and what action the Board of Education propose to take in the matter.

MR. LOUGH: The Board have not as yet been informed of the grounds upon which the Llanychan Church of England school is considered unnecessary, and it is therefore obviously impossible to say what action will be taken in the matter.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: How long will it take the Board of Education to read the letter sent it?

MR. LOUGH: The matter will be dealt with without delay.

Training Colleges for Teachers.

MR. TOULMIN (Bury, Lancashire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether any schemes for new training colleges for teachers, or hostels, have been sanctioned during the last two years, and, if so, will he name them; whether any schemes are under consideration and not yet sanctioned; and will he name the accommodation in each case.

MR. LOUGH: I do not think statistical information, such as the hon. Member asks for, can be conveniently given in reply to a starred Question, but I will send him a statement giving the particulars which he requires.

Post Office Employeės on Licensed Premises.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether there is any rule of the Postal Service with reference to the employment by the Post Office of persons residing on licensed premises; and, if so, whether he can state its effect to the House.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Post Office servants are not allowed to have any part in the ownership or management of licensed premises, but they are not forbidden to reside on such premises, though they are as a rule expected to obtain permission to do so.

South African Mails.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the mail from South Africa arrives and is delivered three or four hours after the departure of the English mail for the Cape, thus entailing the delay of a whole week in answering letters; whether he can bring pressure to bear on the Union Castle Line to start their mail boats a couple of days earlier from Cape Town; and, if this is impossible, will he stipulate that this should be done when next concluding a contract with that company for the transport of the British mails homeward.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The mail service with the Cape Colony is performed by the Union Castle Steamship Company under a contract with the Cape Government which extends to the year 1910. There is already only one day's interval between the arrival of the outward mail at Cape Town and the despatch of the homeward mail; and it would be difficult to interfere with the existing arrangements without inconvenience. On the approach of the termination of the present contract the question will receive consideration. I should add that on thirty occasions during the past twelve months it has been possible to arrange for the correspondence from the Cape to be delivered in London on Saturday morning in time for replies to be despatched by the out-going mail.

Hong-Kong Mails.

Mr. MYER: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, under the Liverpool and Hong-Kong mail contract, in which it is proposed to pay to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company the sum of £60,000, whether the forwarding of the mails by this route will be more expeditious and economical than by the present route under the contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Shipping Company; or does the Government intend renewing the contract with the latter company on its expiration at the end of the year and subsidise two alternative routes.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The monthly mail service with Japan and China *via* Vancouver, carried out by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for many years paid under subsidy, has always been in addition to the British Packet Service by the Suez route; and no change in this respect is contemplated. Voyage for voyage the route of Vancouver is more expeditious than that of Suez in the case of correspondence for Japan and Shanghai, but there are more frequent despatches *via* Suez. The question of the course to be followed on the termination of the existing contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company is under consideration; and I am not yet in a position to make a definite statement on the subject.

Mr. HAROLD COX: I beg also to ask the Postmaster-General what was the amount of postage collected last year upon the letters sent to Hong-Kong from this country *via* Canada; and what is the annual subsidy paid by the British taxpayer to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for carrying such letters.

I beg further to ask the Postmaster-General what is the time taken by the mail from London to Hong-Kong *via* the Suez Canal as compared with the time taken *via* Canada; and what is approximately the weight of letters sent by the former route as compared with the latter.

May I further ask the Postmaster-General what is the number of mail services per annum from this country to Hong-Kong *via* the Suez Canal, and what is the number of mail services *via* Canada; and what is the net annual cost to the British taxpayer of the two sets of services respectively, after deducting receipts from postage.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am not yet in a position to give the detailed information asked for by the hon. Member in his three Questions. The necessary calculations are, however, being made, and the figures shall be furnished as soon as possible.

Mr. MYER: How many mail bags are sent by each mail on the Canadian Pacific route?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I must ask for notice of that.

Employer and Apprentice Law.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been called to a case which was before the Grimsby County Court on Tuesday, 12th February (Marris *v.* Olsen), in which an employer was sued for not teaching an apprentice his business, and which was dismissed without a hearing, on the ground that only a written undertaking had been given, and that the proper indenture had not sealed the contract; and whether, seeing that there was evidence of mutual acceptance of the terms of the said agreement by reason of the fact that a considerable portion of the agreed period of apprenticeship had been worked, he will take steps to secure that a written undertaking in such cases shall be a legal contract as though a proper indenture form was used.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.): The Question refers to an extreme illustration of a well-known law. I can hold out no hope of legislation on the subject.

Scottish National Galleries.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that, under the Act of last year, the Board of Trustees to manage the National Galleries of Scotland must be established by 1st April, is he now in a position to announce the names of the chairman and members of the Board.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): Not yet. I hope to do so shortly.

Achintee River—Bridge for Children.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that children residing in the neighbourhood of Strathcarron railway station are unable to attend the Camat public school on account of there being no footbridge over the Achintee River, will he consider the expediency of allowing the school board to apply a portion of its share of the general aid grant to the erection of a footbridge, especially bearing in mind that it has recently been decided that it is open to any school board to apply its share of the general aid grant, or any portion of such share, to improving the health conditions of its schools.

MR. SINCLAIR: The provision and maintenance of roads and bridges falls within the province of the parish council or of the county council, and not of the school board. I have to refer the hon. Member to my Answer to his Question of 4th March.†

Inspectors of Scottish Schools.

MR. SMEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland how many of the inspectors of schools in Scotland, who have been appointed since 1897, had previous experience as teachers in elementary schools; upon what principle and on whose nomination these inspectors were selected; and, whether, generally, inspectors have been appointed from among University lecturers who have had little or no experience of elementary teaching or elementary schools.

MR. SINCLAIR: Of the inspectors (including junior inspectors) of schools appointed since 1897, eight had previous experience as teachers in elementary schools, thirteen had previous experience as teachers in secondary schools, one was transferred as a sub-inspector from the Science and Art Department, while the remainder, four, had experience as lecturers in training colleges or in the University. The appointments are made by the Secretary for Scotland as Vice-President of the Department from the list of those who have made application for such appointments. Generally, inspectors have been appointed from among men of distinguished University career who have had sufficient experience in teaching either in elementary or in secondary schools. Inspectors of schools in Scotland are not inspectors of elementary schools, but may be and are largely employed for the purpose of inspecting secondary schools as well.

MR. SMEATON: How is it that teachers in elementary schools who often have large experience are only permitted to rise to the rank of sub-inspectors?

MR. SINCLAIR: No class is debarred from the appointments. Candidates are considered on their merits and with regard to the duties to be performed without prejudice to any individual.

Irish Labourers and Untenanted Lands.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, seeing that it is the practice of the Local Government Board to prevent the acquisition of tracts of untenanted land and deny to labourers the benefit of Section 8 of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906, will he require the Board to inform district councils that labourers are not legally excluded from the benefit of that section.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I am informed that there is no ground whatever for the statement that it is the practice of the Local Government Board to prevent the acquisition of tracts of untenanted land. No case under Section 8 of the Act has yet arisen. My right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland has already fully informed the hon. Member that Section 8 confers no power whatever to acquire lands. It merely enables a rural district council to dispose of superfluous lands which cannot be used for the purpose of providing labourers with cottages and plots.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 486-7.

Labourers Cottage Sites.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can account for the habit of inspectors to sanction the acquisition of sites for cottages upon small farms, and reject, without reasons stated, applications for sites upon large untenanted tracts in the same neighbourhood; and will he have instructions issued immediately to inspectors that, where untenanted land is available, sites should be sanctioned on that land rather than on small farms.

Mr. BIRRELL: I am informed that it is not the habit of the inspectors to act in the manner suggested, and there appears to be no necessity to issue instructions in the matter.

Soldiers and Civil Process in Ireland.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, when Irish landlords, as part of the negotiation for the sale of their estates, by suing for hanging gales, suing in the superior instead of the local courts, and by other oppressive use of legal methods, get decrees for money before it is normally due, or decrees for more than one year's rent within a year, can he see his way to limiting equitably the extent to which the forces of the Crown will be given for executing such decrees.

Mr. BIRRELL: I can add nothing to the reply which my predecessor gave to the hon. Member's similar Question on 28th March last, namely, that it is not competent to the Executive Government to refuse the assistance of the forces of the Crown for the protection of the sheriff when engaged in the execution of the King's writ.

Mullingar Rural District Council and the Labourers Act.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has seen a recent letter from Mr. O'Sullivan, of the Local Government Board, purporting to answer an inquiry of the Mullingar Rural District Council as to whether labourers were eligible for temporary lettings under Section 8 of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906, but in reality evading that question and misleading the council by answering a question not addressed to him; and, seeing that similar letters have been addressed to other councils, obscuring the beneficial working of the Act, will he take steps to have the policy professed by the Government in this matter carried out by the officials.

Mr. BIRRELL: I have seen the correspondence referred to. The hon. Member has been entirely misinformed as to the purport of the inquiries addressed to the Local Government Board. I will send him a copy of the correspondence.

Inspectors of the Irish Local Government Board.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many temporary inspectors are to be provided under Sub-head A of the Irish Local Government Board Vote, for whose salaries the sum of £1,000 is to be voted; and why the expenses of these temporary inspectors are expected to amount to a further sum of £1,000, which is equivalent to their total salaries.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board are not at present able to say how many additional temporary inspectors may have to be employed to deal with inquiries under the Labourers Acts. The estimate of £1,000 for salaries was based on the assumption that two inspectors for a full year or four for six months would be sufficient, but possibly a greater number will be required. The sub-head expenses includes subsistence allowance and travelling expenses. It is expected that the latter item will be unusually heavy, having regard to the large number of sites to be inspected.

Irish National Schools.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that no portion of the sum of £25,000 voted from the Ireland Development Grant in 1906–7 towards the cost of rebuilding necessitous national schools in Ireland has yet been spent; what is the cause of the delay; and whether he will take steps to see that the moneys allocated by Parliament for this purpose are utilised.

Mr. BIRRELL: The sum voted from the Ireland Development Grant for national school buildings in the current year is £15,000. This sum is in addition to the £20,000 provided in the Vote for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland. Owing to the temporary partial suspension of grants for building it has not been found necessary to draw upon the former sum. The delay in making the grants has been due to the discussion as to the basis upon which such grants are to be made, and also to the question of adopting new standard plans.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how much money has been actually used for this purpose?

MR. BIRRELL: I have not got the figures. I hope that very soon a satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at.

Repair of Irish Elementary Schools.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has formed any estimate of the amount of money necessary to put the elementary schools of Ireland into anything like a decent state; and whether he will press upon the Treasury the need for an enlarged grant for this purpose.

MR. BIRRELL: I beg to refer the hon. Member to my Answer to his similar Question on Monday,† to which I have nothing to add.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Does the right hon. Gentleman intend to take steps to get this money?

MR. BIRRELL: I have already taken steps to secure a larger grant to be expended on this most necessary work.

Police Protection in Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland under what circumstances is it necessary to afford special police protection to twelve persons in county Louth, forty-one in county Galway, nine in Mayo, thirty-nine in Clare, thirty in county Cork, twenty-four in Kerry, twelve in Limerick, and ten in Tipperary.

MR. BIRRELL: The Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary informs me that in the cases referred to protection is necessary for various reasons. The Inspector-General considers that it would be very undesirable to give details from which the particular cases might be identified, and I am therefore not prepared to furnish such particulars.

Case of Martin Hawes.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give the grounds upon which Martin Hawes has recently been discharged from Galway Gaol after undergoing only eight weeks and three days of his sentence of four calendar months for assault on the police, and five weeks additional for drunkenness and disorder; and whether his attention has been called to the character of this man, and to the fact that he has been convicted for similar offences on forty-nine previous occasions.

MR. BIRRELL: It would be contrary to the established practice to state the reasons which influence the Lord-Lieutenant in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy vested in him. All the circumstances of this particular case were before the Lord-Lieutenant, including the fact that the prisoner had been previously convicted on forty-nine occasions, as well as the fact that he had now suffered over two months imprisonment.

Cloghroe Dynamite Outrage.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Royal Irish Constabulary authorities have yet ascertained if a dynamite outrage was recently perpetrated near Cloghroe, in the Parliamentary Division of Mid-Cork.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities have not yet completed their investigation of this matter.

Major Armstrong's Banagher Estate.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give the date on which negotiations were opened between the Estates Commissioners and Major Armstrong for the sale of his estate at Claremont, Banagher; whether an inspector visited the lands last October; and whether an arrangement has been come to as to price, and what are the terms.

---

† See Col. 426.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners opened negotiations with Major Armstrong in June, 1906, and received their inspector's report on the estate in the following November. They have since had the matter under consideration, and are now about to make an offer for the estate.

Butson Estate, Clonfert.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have purchased or are in negotiation for purchase of the Butson estate, Clonfert, county Galway; and, if so, when may the tenants upon the estate whose holdings are uneconomic expect an enlargement.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have directed an inspection of the estate in question with a view to making an offer for purchase to the Land Judge, in whose Court the matter is. If the Commissioners should acquire the property they will prepare a scheme for the distribution of the untenanted land, but cannot say how soon this may be possible.

Grants for New Irish Schools.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state approximately the date on which the Commissioners of National Education will be in a position financially to consider applications for grant towards the erection of new schools.

Mr. BIRRELL: I am not at this moment in a position to give a definite Answer to this Question. I hope to be able to make a statement on the subject in the discussion on the Estimates to-morrow night.

Gort Board of Guardians—Surcharge.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the surcharge made by the Local Government Board on three members of the Gort Board of Guardians; whether he is aware that the surcharge arose out of a meat contract, which brought a saving to the rates; whether he is aware that the guardians surcharged had nothing to do with the acceptance of the tender; and will he explain how it is that, when there was no loss to the guardians in the accepted tender, the Local Government Board is now seeking to receive £38 3s. 2d.

Mr. BIRRELL: In this case the contract entered into by the guardians was declared by the Local Government Board to be null and void. The guardians, however, in spite of the warning of the Local Government Board, persisted in taking meat under the void contract, and the auditor was obliged by law to surcharge the payments made in the case. I have already informed the hon. Member that the Local Government Board have felt it to be their duty to sustain the surcharge in order to secure the due observance by the guardians of the law in these matters.

Minkill Evicted Tenant, Leitrim.

Mr. THOMAS F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners will reconsider the application for reinstatement which they received from Mrs. Bridget Moran, Drumnadubber, Drumsna, with reference to the farm in Minkill, on the Rowley estate, in county Leitrim, from which her late husband was evicted in 1884; and, in the event of her not being reinstated if compensation will be given to her.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have fully considered Mrs. Moran's application. The evicted farm is occupied by another person, and Mrs. Moran herself already holds a farm of nineteen acres. She declines to accept any land unless it be near her present holding, and in the circumstances the Commissioners consider that they cannot do anything further in the matter at present.

Earl of Leitrim's Falcarragh Property.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say what has been the result of the negotiations recently carried on by the Congested Districts Board for the purchase of a portion of the estate of the Earl of Leitrim, in the neighbourhood of Falcarragh, county Donegal.

MR. BIRRELL: In February, 1906, the Congested Districts Board made an offer for the purchase of a portion of the estate referred to, but the offer was not accepted by the owner. The Board again considered the matter at their recent meeting, and decided to take no further steps for the present.

Irish Teachers' Residences.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether any new plans or rules for the erection of teachers' residences have been adopted; and, if so, in view of the fact that the maximum grant of £250 hitherto allowed is now insufficient, can he say whether and to what extent this sum has been increased.

MR. BIRRELL: The answer is in the negative. The amount of loan for a teacher's residence could not be increased beyond £250 without legislation.

Tubbercurry Potato Crop.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in Curry and other congested districts in the union of Tubbercurry, county Sligo, an amount of distress prevails owing to the failure of the potato crop of last year, many poor people being without the necessary seed for cropping purposes; and whether, under the circumstances, he will see that, in any free distribution of seeds which takes place, the claims of the people of these improverished districts will be considered.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have inquired into the circumstances of Tubbercurry Union, and are satisfied that there is no exceptional distress in the district. There is no increase in outdoor relief as compared with a year ago. The Board have no doubt that the people will be able to find means to crop their land this spring.

Irish Hall-Mark.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland under what circumstances he has already a protective tariff in Ireland against Sheffield silver, and exacts a charge of 1s. an ounce for putting thereon the Irish hall-mark, whereas in England the charge is only ½d. an ounce for putting the hall-mark on Irish silver; and if he proposes during his term of office to impose like restrictions on all articles of British manufacture imported into Ireland.

MR. BIRRELL: The hon. Gentleman has been misinformed. The matter in question does not fall within the province of any department of the Government. The duty of hall-marking silver in Ireland devolves upon the Corporation of Goldsmiths in Ireland, a body incorporated by Royal Charter in 1637. Under the Charter, the Corporation possess the right to fix the charges for hall-marking. The hon. Secretary to the Corporation informs me that in 1896 their charge for hall-marking articles manufactured in England was raised to one shilling an ounce, in order to counteract a practice, which had sprung up in certain quarters, of sending articles to Ireland to be hall-marked, and then selling them as of Irish manufacture.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman say how the Government justify these protective duties in Ireland against Irish goods?

MR. BIRRELL: I think not.

Royal Irish Constabulary—Theft of Money at Corofin, Clare.

MR. THOMAS F. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if his attention has been called to Class 3, Vote 19, in the Civil Service and Revenue Departments Estimates for the year ending 31st March 1906, where a special sub-head has been introduced into the account, with the sanction of the Treasury, to recoup an officer in the Royal Irish Constabulary the sum of £10 5s. 10d., which was stolen from his office in the barracks; and if he can state in what part of Ireland this occurred, and if any investigation will be held, so that the perpetrator of the deed may be found out and brought to justice, and thus prevent such acts of theft from being committed in future.

MR. BIRRELL: The hon. Member refers to the Appropriation Accounts, not the Estimates, for the year ending 31st March 1906. The sum referred to, which consisted of public money, was stolen together with a locked cash-box from the office of the District Inspector at Corofin, county Clare, in May, 1905, while the officer was absent on duty. A strict investigation was instituted, and every effort made to trace the offender, but without success. The Irish Government were satisfied that there was no contributory negligence on the part of the officer, and upon their recommendation the Treasury authorised the loss to be made good from the Vote. The Inspector-General informs me that losses of the kind are extremely rare.

Plunketstown Evicted Tenant.

MR. KILBRIDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what decision, if any, the Estates Commissioners have come to relative to the reinstatement of Garret Stynes, Plunketstown, county Kildare.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners are considering this matter, and will in due course inform the hon. Member of the decision at which they may arrive.

County Cork Evicted Tenants.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether, in connection with Instruction to Inspectors, No. 50, part 4, under date 9th March, 1906, the Estates Commissioners can now state whether land is available for evicted tenants whom it is not found possible to reinstate in their former holdings in the hereinafter named localities, county Cork, where untenanted land is plentiful, namely, Castlemagner and Cecilstown, Newmarket, Dromtariff and Dromagh, and Doneraile; if so, what amount is available in each of these localities respectively; and, if this information is not yet in the possession of the Estates Commissioners, will they, in view of the considerable number of evicted tenants seeking for equivalent holdings, direct their inspectors to make immediate inquiry in regard to the localities named.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are not aware that any untenanted land is available in the localities mentioned, so far as they have been able to identify such localities. If the names of the townlands in which it is suggested that untenanted land exists, and the names and addresses of the owners or their agents, should be furnished to the Commissioners they will have inquiries made.

Longworth Estate, County Galway.

MR. JOHN ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the date upon which the Congested Districts Board agreed to purchase the Longworth estate, Oatfield, county Galway; and when may the tenants upon and surrounding it, whose holdings are uneconomic, expect this land to be divided amongst them.

MR. BIRRELL: The Congested Districts Board agreed to purchase this estate in November 1903. The question of distributing the lands has been postponed, pending the Report of the Royal Commission on Congestion upon the question of enlarging the Board's powers in regard to the allocation of land to tenants in non-congested districts, whose holdings do not exceed £10 in value. At present the Board's powers in such respect are limited to holdings under £5 valuation.

Irish Education Bill.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he intends to introduce a Bill this session dealing with higher education in Ireland, in accordance with the proposals recently laid down by Mr. Bryce; and, if so, can he say on what date.

MR. BIRRELL: I am not at present in a position to name a date for the introduction of legislation on this subject.

Doohoma School Teacher's Dismissal.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that he has been unable to obtain any information from the National Commissioners of Education in reference to the dismissal and assault upon Mr. Cryan, principal teacher of Doohoma national school, county Mayo, committed by the manager, Father Dolphin, P.P., and his curate, he will ask for a report from the police, who are aware of all the facts.

MR. BIRRELL: It does not appear that the police are concerned in this matter. If it is alleged that the rules of the Commissioners of National Education have been broken, the case is one for appeal to the Commissioners, and if there has been any breach of contract or an assault has been committed it is open to the person aggrieved to adopt the usual legal remedy.

MR. SLOAN: Has the right hon. Gentleman any information as to the assault on the teacher?

MR. BIRRELL: I will make inquiry as to that.

Christian Brothers Schools at Carrick-on-Suir.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary the the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the schools belonging to the Christian Brothers and the Convents in Carrick-on-Suir, have been omitted from the valuation lists; if so, what was the amount of the former valuation; and whether the Government intends to take any action in the matter.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I learn that the premises referred to have been exempted from taxation since 1866 on the ground that they are used for charitable purposes. The Urban Council of Carrick-on-Suir were informed last month that if they would enter these cases for the next annual revision of the valuation the question as to how far the premises are entitled to this exemption will be fully investigated.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Are convents in which business is carried on excepted?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I can only answer the Question as far as the schools are concerned.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: But convents are also alluded to in the Question.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Will the hon. Gentleman in considering this matter bear in mind the astonishing fact that these excellent Christian Brothers schools receive no public money?

[No Answer was returned.]

Telephones in the South of Ireland.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has received a copy of a resolution adopted at the recent annual meeting of the Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping, urging the extension in the interests of trade and commerce in the South of Ireland of necessary telephonic communication with such centres as Charleville, Fermoy, Bantry and Youghal; and whether the postal authorities are prepared to carry out this much needed extension.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have received a copy of the resolution referred to by the hon. Member. The question of the extension of the Post Office Telephone System in the South West of Ireland has engaged my careful attention for some time past. Recent inquiries, however, at the places named show that little local support would be given to telephone exchanges except at Fermoy and Bandon. Even in these towns the probable revenue would not cover the estimated cost of the service, but I hope shortly to be able to offer to extend the telephone system to these two places under guarantees, and elsewhere if the guarantee is forthcoming.

The Parliamentary Session.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will consider whether an opportunity may be offered to hon. Members for declaring by a vote their opinion as to whether or no business should be so arranged that the parliamentary session might commence earlier and terminate at the end of June each year.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I do not know what opportunity can be offered for this purpose. I take it as pretty certain that there is a general desire that the House should rise a month or six weeks earlier in the summer than its habit has been. The difficulty is how to adjust business for that purpose.

I am myself disposed to think that it would not conduce to the despatch of business if the prorogation took place in summer. A better arrangement would be to adjourn in summer and prorogue in winter after an autumn session. But the Government have at present no definite proposal to make on the subject, and perhaps the hon. Member will, with others, apply his ingenious mind to a solution of the intricacies involved in this problem.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the fact that I have already applied my "ingenious mind," having handed in a notice in this direction to be considered by the Committee on Procedure, whose report is to be discussed this afternoon? But the Committee has never sat since. Will not the right hon. Gentleman set up this Committee again in order that this recommendation may be made, as I am quite certain it would be made?

[No Answer was given.]

Passive Resisters as Magistrates.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether in view of the fact that two gentlemen, since they have been appointed magistrates, have been summoned at Towcester for non-payment of a portion of the poor rate and been ordered to pay, he will take steps to prevent such magistrates from adjudicating in cases similar to those on which they themselves have refused to obey the law.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not aware that the facts are as stated by the hon. Member, and we are not prepared to interfere in any way with magistrates in the discharge of their duty.

MR. HUNT: But can persons take an oath to enforce the law when they themselves refuse to be bound by it?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is hard to say what people may do when they are put to it.

ARMY ANNUAL BILL—MEMORANDUM.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) asked a question of the Secretary of State for War of which he had, he said, given private notice. It referred to the Memorandum on the Army Act. He wished to know why the first Memorandum was withdrawn.

MR. HALDANE said there was only a semblance of mystery in the matter—no real one. The paper issued was exactly identical, word for word, as that sent down to the Vote Office earlier, and which he had given instructions to be issued with the Army Annual Bill. But, by some mistake, instead of that being done the Memorandum was taken away from the Vote Office without his knowledge. Consequently the second paper was sent out in substitution for the one which actually went to the Vote Office.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington): But is it the fact that the Memorandum was printed before it was ordered to be laid on the Table of the House, and if so, who was responsible.

MR. HALDANE said he rather thought it was printed at the War Office. There they printed their own papers—quite a right thing to do in order to have the papers ready in good time and sent down to the House promptly.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) called attention to a matter which he considered a gross breach of Parliamentary privilege. A large section of the Members of the House, to which he did not himself belong, had been accused of intentional fraud and of entering into a criminal legislative conspiracy. The accusation was brought by the senior Member for the City of London in a speech he had delivered outside the House on the previous day. The rule was explicit: the imputation of dishonourable and corrupt motives to Members of that House was not allowed, and had always been regarded as a gross breach of privilege. The passage on which he founded the charge was as follows—

"Was it not rather a paradoxical position? You have a Party come into power with an overwhelming numerical majority at their back. You have their leaders pledged to Home Rule, all believing in Home Rule. You have followers the great majority of whom are also pledged to Home Rule, and all believing in Home Rule. But this Party, with its enormous Parliamentary strength, has not the courage of its opinions, and is so afraid of the public feeling in England and Scotland that it is not going to carry out the policy in which it says over and over again with unwearied iteration that it thoroughly believes. What is the inference to be drawn from that strange and paradoxical state of things? It is that the policy of the present Government of Ireland is a deliberate and intentional fraud upon the British electorate. If you consider, in addition to and in conjunction with the particular facts that I have just described to you, the attitude taken with regard to the House of Lords, you will then, and then only, grasp the full nature and extent of the criminal legislative conspiracy of which we are now to be the victims.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): Do you mind going on?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he would leave the right hon. Gentleman to do that. He contended that the use of the words "deliberate and intentional fraud" and "criminal legislative conspiracy" was a breach of privilege, as imputing corrupt and dishonourable motives to Members of the House in relation to their Parliamentary duties. He cited a case in which Lord Selborne, when a Member of the House Commons, imputed corruption to the Irish Members. Attention was called to the speech in the House, and Mr. Speaker Peel said the words might be discourteous, but there was no *mala fides* imputed to Members in the discharge of their duties in the House. In the present case, however, he contended there was *mala fides* clearly imputed, not to one or two Members, but to a whole Party in relation to their Parliamentary duties, and he asked Mr. Speaker to rule that the words were a breach of privilege.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member asks me whether in my opinion there is any breach of privilege in the use of the words attributed to the senior Member for the City of London; and he founded himself, as I understand, on two expressions used in the course of a speech—the word "fraud" and the words "criminal legislative conspiracy."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Intentional fraud.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is no matter. Fraud must be intentional. If I believed, or if anybody who either heard or read the words, believed that the right hon. Gentleman was imputing to Ministers conduct which was capable of being indicted for what "fraud" or "criminal conspiracy" really means, it would be obvious that a breach of privilege had been committed. But I cannot think that anybody who heard the words or who had read them would for a moment believe that any such meaning could be attached to them; and taking the very instance the hon. Member has given of the ruling of one of my predecessors as to whether *mala fides* had been imputed or not, I should say, taking that as a criterion, that I should be justified in saying that no *mala fides* had been imputed such as to bring the conduct within the scope of an indictable offence. We know perfectly well that, in the ardour of political contest, words are very often considerably strained; but I feel convinced that in this instance no breach of privilege has been committed.

STANDING COMMITTEE (CHAIRMAN'S PANEL).

Mr. Stuart-Wortley reported from the Chairman's Panel; That they had appointed Sir David Brynmor Jones to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in the place of Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

TRUSTS BILL.

"To codify the Law relating to private Trusts and Trustees," presented by Mr. Rendall; supported by Mr. Cave, Mr. Micklem, Mr. Stewart-Smith, and Mr. Bertram; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 30th April, and to be printed. [Bill 123.]

LEEDS (SOUTH PARADE CHAPEL) CHARITY BILL.

"To confirm a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the charity consisting of the Particular or Calvinistic Baptist Chapel in South Parade, in the city of Leeds," presented by Mr. Trevelyan; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 124.]

KINGSWOOD (WHITFIELD TABERNACLE, SCHOOLROOM, ETC.) CHARITY BILL.

"To confirm a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the charity consisting of the Whitfield Tabernacle, Schoolroom, and trust property in the parish of Kingswood, in the county of Gloucester," presented by Mr. Trevelyan; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 125.]

LONGTON (CAROLINE STREET CHAPEL) CHARITY BILL.

"To confirm a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the charity consisting of the Congregational Chapel in Caroline Street, in the borough of Longton, in the county of Stafford," presented by Mr. Trevelyan; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 126.]

DOGS (INJURIES TO PERSONS) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Injuries to Persons by Dogs," presented by Mr. Dundas White; supported by Mr. Crombie, Dr. Shipman, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir John Jardine, Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards, Mr. Arnold Herbert, and Mr. Molteno; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 127.]

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BILL.

"To promote Agricultural Education and nature study in Public Elementary Schools," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings, supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Rothschild, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Arkwright, and Mr. Carlile; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 128.]

FERRIES (IRELAND) BILL.

"To confer on county councils in Ireland the power to establish and maintain Ferries; and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Gwynn; supported by Mr. Clancy, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. O'Malley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 129.]

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire), in asking leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Laws relating to Education in Scotland, and for other purposes connected therewith, said: The purpose of the Bill is to effect certain improvements in educational machinery which it is thought can be secured without any change in the existing general organisation and without touching questions such as the area of educational administration. It proposes, in the first place, to confer certain additional powers upon school boards. Among these are power to do all that is necessary to provide machinery for the provision of meals to school children. The power of spending money for food is also conferred in certain well-defined cases, by a later clause of the Bill dealing with what may be termed neglected children. In the case of neglected children it is provided that where, as the result of medical inspection or otherwise, it is brought to the knowledge of the school board that a child is filthy or verminous or insufficiently clothed or fed, it shall be the duty of the school board to make inquiry as to the reason. If the parent appears to be at fault, he should be prosecuted for cruelty to children, and provision is made for the child accordingly. If he is unable by reason of poverty or ill-health to do his duty by his child, the case is to be referred to the parish council, but help given by the parish council in such circumstances shall not impose any disability upon the parent. The school board has power, pending inquiry and as long as may be necessary, to make requisite provision for the child from the school fund. The Bill further proposes to confer upon school boards power to make by-laws to enforce attendance to a reasonable extent at continuation classes of pupils under seventeen years of age who have ceased attendance at the day school. Such by-laws will be made only when the board are able to satisfy the Department that there is adequate provision of suitable continuation classes for their district. It is believed that the time is ripe for such a step forward in certain districts, and that much may be done in this way to reduce the loss of any enduring result from our present large expenditure upon education. Another section of the Bill proposes to restore to school boards in Scotland the power which they lost by the Act of 1898 of giving pensions or retiring allowances to future teachers and to existing teachers who have accepted the Superannuation Act. The giving of a pension or a supplementary pension will be, as it always has been since 1872, voluntary on the part of the school boards, and it is provided that grants in aid of pensions to teachers shall be made under certain defined conditions from the Scottish Local Taxation Account Fund. I may remind the House in this connection that the position in Scotland differs widely from that in England. The circumstances of Scotland are different; the organisation is different. There is a school board in every parish, and historically the claim of teachers to a pension or retiring allowance has always been recognised. By another clause in the Bill, all the Local Taxation Funds available for education in Scotland are consolidated. After providing for certain prior charges, such as the grant in aid of pensions to teachers already mentioned, and the expenses of the Leaving Certificate Examination which have hitherto been borne by these funds, the balance will be distributed to county and burgh secondary education committees for the purpose of enabling them to make provision for a well-organised system of secondary and technical education within their districts, in accordance with schemes approved by the Department, as is the case at present in respect to secondary education. There are a few minor provisions which provide for an effective audit of the accounts of both public and voluntary schools in receipt of grants, with power of surcharge; a section to facilitate the working of the Day Industrial Schools Act in the case of truant schools by allowing a shorter period of detention; a section to enable school boards, in certain cases, to recover from other school boards expenditure upon the education of children without their districts; and a section to facilitate the transfer of insufficiently endowed secondary schools under a trust to school boards. Lastly, the Bill abolishes the cumulative vote and makes the parish council franchise applicable to elections for school boards. These are the main provisions of the Bill, which I hope will commend itself to the consideration of the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the laws relating to education in Scotland, and for other purposes connected therewith."—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said that he did not intend to divide the House on the First Reading of the Bill, although he had some criticisms to offer. According to the proverb they ought to consider half a loaf better than no bread. But the gift of half a loaf was apt not to hasten but to delay the more valuable gift of the whole loaf which they desired. This Education Bill for Scotland was more than due. It had been due since 1901.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) asked, on a point of order, if the hon. Member was opposing the Bill or not; because it might be gathered from his observations that the measure carried out his views.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the hon. Gentleman had begun his speech by saying that he did not propose to divide the House against the Bill; but he gathered that the hon. Gentleman had some criticisms to offer upon some parts of the measure, and if that were so he thought that the hon. Gentleman should be allowed to proceed.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said that what he wanted to insist upon was that a Bill dealing with education in Scotland had been due since 1901, and strong objections had been made to the delay in passing such a measure. That delay had been attributed to the late Unionist Government. The late Government presented a Bill of large scope and wide policy, which was received with acclamation from all sides of the House, although there had been some signs of variation of opinions amongst hon. and right hon. Members now sitting on the Treasury Bench. Was it possible that such variation of opinion was the reason why instead of introducing a Bill of a wide and comprehensive character, the present Government had introduced a Bill which proposed to deal with Scottish education problems in homœopathic doses? The administration of education in Scotland was at the present time in the hands of 984 elected school boards, and this multiplicity of petty authorities prevented Scotland from moving forward on the line adopted in England of co-ordinating preliminary and secondary education. That was a question on which the vast preponderance of Scottish opinion was entirely at one. The great problem of administrative areas which had occupied them for so long, and which had been discussed so fully, had been dismissed and passed over by the right hon. Gentleman. He was glad to see that the Bill made some provision for medical care in the schools, but they would never have a satisfactory state of things until that system was directed by the Central Department and was worked upon scientific methods. Such working was provided for by the former Bill, but not by the present. As to the provision of pensions for teachers, he had the greatest sympathy with that object, and he would join in the promotion of a single clause Bill to bring it about. He objected, however, to the method in which the Bill dealt with the vexed question of the provision of meals. It provided for an entirely different machinery from that proposed in the Bill lately brought before the House by a private Member, which passed its Second Reading only because of the strong support of the Government. It was now proposed to make the money provided for that purpose payable by the Poor Law authorities, or the parish councils, and not by the school boards. That was a fundamental distinction, and he thought they were entitled to ask the Government whether they were prepared to continue their support of the Bill of hon. Members below the gangway, to which they had given their adhesion, or to pledge themselves to the alternative machinery which was embodied in the present Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair and the Lord Advocate.

Sir Henry Craik.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the laws relating to education in Scotland, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented accordingly, and read the first time, to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 130.]

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND).

*MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland), in asking leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to the tenure of parochial medical officers of Scotland, said he wished to bring before the House a great grievance which existed in the islands and Highlands of Scotland. Since 1896 a number of dismissals had taken place, and the parochial medical officers had been pressing this matter. During the election of 1900 the question was very prominently brought forward, and in the following session a memorial was presented to Parliament signed by practically the whole of the medical profession in Scotland and supported by all the non-official Members for Scotland representing both sides of the House on the subject. That memorial was very favourably received, and the then Secretary for Scotland, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and also Lord Dunedin and the Marquess of Linlithgow were sympathetic, and he had no reason to believe that the present distinguished occupier of the office of Secretary for Scotland held any antagonistic view to the Bill. He held no brief for the medical profession, and they had in that House members who were quite capable of representing their views. This was a question which in the islands and Highlands of Scotland affected the poor to a very great extent. Owing to our un-Christian and immoral land law the position of the poor in the North of Scotland had become one of very great difficulty. They had only three classes of people to turn to for aid and assistance—the minister, the schoolmaster, and the doctor—and of those the doctor held the most uncertain position and was the one who suffered most. The minister and schoolmaster could hold on to their positions, but it was a great and growing injustice that the doctor could be thrown out of his position without proper notice, and great scandal attached to that state of things. A case had recently arisen where a doctor had been dismissed. He had a young family and had to commence the world again with a black mark against him. By means of this Bill they did not ask for very much. All that they wanted was that these parochial medical officers should have the right to go to the Local Government Board and have their cases heard before that body. At the present moment the medical officers of poorhouses had that right, and the result of their having that right was that there had not been a single application from any one of them to the Secretary for Scotland as representing the Local Government Board. In England, with its vast population, there had been only six cases in which such dismissal had taken place during the last five years. In Ireland during the same period there had been only three cases, and it was for the purpose of doing this small act of justice, of giving these men the right to appeal, that he had ventured to bring forward the Bill in the manner he had done, and he hoped it would commend itself to the Government and to the House.

Motion made, and Question, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to the tenure of parochial medical officers in Scotland"—(*Mr. Cathcart Wason*)—put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Harmsworth, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Gullard, Sir Henry Craik, Viscount Dalrymple, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Younger, Mr. Cross and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the tenure of office of Parochial Medical Officers in Scotland," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 24th April, and to be printed. [Bill 131.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).

MR. SPEAKER having called on Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN—

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said he wished to raise a point of order. He was sorry that he could not give earlier notice of his intention to raise this objection to the Motion of the Prime Minister, but it took a very considerable time to go through the fifty-eight or fifty-nine recorded cases of alteration of the Standing Orders in order to see what the practice had been in all except four such matters. In the recorded cases of either new Standing Orders or amendment of Standing Orders the matter had been taken on the Report of a Select Committee. There were, however, cases recorded in which the procedure had been similar to that now being adopted. In 1901 and 1902 the matter was dealt with on that footing, but in every other reported case the practice had been to submit to the House the Standing Order which it was proposed to amend or repeal. He submitted that that practice ought to be adhered to. In the second place, in every alteration or insertion of words, the practice seemed to have been to effect it by way of amendment of the existing Standing Order. Therefore, if the Prime Minister's Motion was simply one to alter one of the existing Standing Orders, it should be brought before the House by way of Amendment and not by way of Resolution. The practice had also been that if a new Standing Order was proposed, or was submitted in substitution of an existing Standing Order, the first Resolution was, the existing Standing Order having been read, that the House should repeal it. That difficulty seemed to have occurred to those who were making the present proposals, because on the Notice Paper it was suggested that they should repeal Standing Order 46; and there were also further Amendments to follow making a considerable number of alterations in Standing Order 47. The House would find itself in a very peculiar position if the Motion of the Prime Minister were passed and they had not repealed Standing Order 46. The effect would be that they would have two perfectly inconsistent Standing Orders a very anomalous position. One suggested answer to his point of order was that if the two existing Standing Orders were repealed and the new one was not accepted by the House they would find themselves in the difficulty of having no Standing Order upon the point involved. But that was nothing like so serious a difficulty as would arise from having two perfectly inconsistent Standing Orders at one and the same moment. That difficulty arose, as would be observed by anyone who read the Standing Orders, when some years ago they repealed a portion of a Standing Order and put nothing in its place. His point of order was that the invariable practice should be followed, and that Standing Orders 46 and 47 should be repealed. Then, if the House consented, they should take the new Standing Order proposed by the Prime Minister, which would take the place of Standing Orders 46 and 47, and there would be an opportunity of moving Amendments. Unless that practice were followed they could not have a Second Reading debate on the whole proposition such as they ought to have. The Amending of the Standing Orders of the House was a most important proceeding, and it ought to be carried out in accordance with established practice.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member raises three points. The first is whether the Standing Order, which it is proposed to repeal, ought to be read as from the Table. The hon. Member says that on looking at the Journals he finds that this has always been the case. As a matter of fact what he has found are entries of the Standing Orders having been read. For a great number of years the Standing Orders have always been taken as read; ever since Members have been able to read, or ever since they were printed and available, it has been unnecessary formally to read from the Table the words of the Standing Order. If the hon. Member looks to-morrow, or later, he will find in to-day's proceedings that the Standing Order will have been entered as having been read. The hon. Member's second point is that the Prime Minister ought to have moved the repeal of the Standing Order to which he objects, and then asked the House to enact a new one. That is not the procedure followed in the Committee Stage of a Bill. There an Amendment is made, and subsequently anything which stands in the Bill and which is inconsistent with the Amendment which is made at an earlier stage of the Bill, is struck out. The inconsistent parts are not struck out first before the new parts are inserted; and it seems to me that the procedure which the Prime Minister proposes would really be much the more convenient to the House than that of which the hon. Member gives an example—the inconvenience of first repealing before you enact afresh. It seems to me that the better course is first of all, for the House to agree upon that which it wants inserted in the Standing Orders, and then subsequently that part of the Standing Orders which is inconsistent with what the House has agreed upon, can be struck out; because if first of all you struck out that which you do not like, there might be difficulty in agreeing upon that which you wish to insert, and, therefore, a blank would be made.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: Of course, if we were considering this in Committee there would be no possible answer, Sir, to what you are laying down. But it is not being considered in Committee; it is in the House.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that really alters the desirability of the procedure which I have indicated, which seems to me to be simpler and better. The third point raised by the hon. Member is what opportunity is there for the House having anything in the nature of a Second Reading debate. Following the precedent which has obtained of late years, I do not propose to object to a Second Reading debate taking place on the statement of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will make his proposals, and those proposals as a whole will then be open to the observations of hon. Members of the House, and after the debate has continued for some little time, or when it has exhausted itself, then the House will approach the Amendments.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: Will there be an opportunity of dividing on the main principle?

*MR. SPEAKER: There will be no question on which a division can be taken, but the hon. Member will have an opportunity of dividing when the question arises of the new Standing Order, as amended, being made a Standing Order of the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): There is one point, and I think one point only, on which I agree with the hon. Member opposite—that this is a very important business which we are undertaking to-day. We have no desire to underrate at all what may be expected to be the effect of the changes which I am going to propose to the House. I believe these changes to be salutary and capable of giving new life and vigour to the House to a degree that we may not be able yet to realise. At the same time, I quite admit that, like all changes of this kind in our procedure, they are necessarily of an experimental kind; and I hope that they will be treated without any partisan feeling, and that we shall all endeavour to regard the terms of these proposals with a view to the interest of the House of Commons, of Parliament and of legislation, and not on the ground of any prejudices or preconceived opinions of our own. I propose to ask the House that the number of the Standing Committees shall be increased. I ask the House to add to the work of the Standing Committees, to free their hands, and to give greater regularity to their procedure. By all these means, I believe, we shall increase their efficiency and their authority. These proposals will take from the House, in the main, the duty of detailed examination of measures of legislation. At present a Bill is considered by what we know as a Committee of the Whole House. If one looks back into history, I think it will be proved that in earlier days Bills were often committed to very small numbers of Members indeed. The House lapsed only in comparatively recent times into this habit of referring Bills to Committees of the Whole House. It is a practice contrary, I believe, to that adopted in the legislative Assemblies of almost all other countries. Certainly in France, and in the United States, the work of the great body of the Chamber is relieved by the delegation to particular Committees of the details of measures which have received the assent of the whole Parliament. And as our system at present works it really operates as an absolute hindrance and limit to the amount of work that this House can get through. I think it does more. To a large extent it takes the heart out of Members of this House, because they waste their energies, day after day, having really comparatively little to do except to listen; and they would have greater interest in the high duties they have to perform here, and they would be stimulated altogether in their capacity as Members of the legislative Assembly, if they were, to a much greater extent, brought face to face in their individual capacity with the details of measures in Committees upstairs. That is the theory on which, at all events, we proceed. The fact that something of that sort is required was, of course, acknowledged when the Standing Committees were erected some years ago. They were regarded with considerable jealousy and alarm by certain Members of the House; but, as I have said, although that was a new departure at the time, it was only a revival of the old traditional practice of the House. In asking the House to increase the number of Standing Committees and to facilitate the remission of Bills for their consideration, we are only seeking to enlarge the relief which has been given to the House and to make more effective and more authoritative the action of the House with regard to the details of legislation. No one will dispute the fact that the Standing Committees have worked exceedingly well. We believe that they will work better when, as we propose, their proceedings are assimilated to those which are familiar of the House itself. At present the Chairman of a Standing Committee has really very little power. I speak with personal knowledge, because I was the first Chairman of a Standing Committee, now more than ten years ago, I think, who ventured to apply the closure A certain half-dozen Members, or not so many, were by Amendments skilfully drawn, and by speeches eloquently delivered, prolonging the proceedings, and this went on hour after hour, and day after day to the despair of almost everyone. I consulted Mr. Speaker Peel, and—I do not know who has the credit of originating it—we invented a theory which answered our purpose, that there was an inherent right in any Chairman to secure the order and reasonable proceedings of the body over which he presided. I applied this inherent right, and the first men to congratulate me were the three or four Members who had been obstructing, and who said, I think, that they were at an absolute loss to know what would have become of them if I had not interfered for their relief. That fact impressed upon my memory the absolute necessity not only of a real power of applying the closure, but of giving to the Chairman something like the same powers as reside in the Speaker and the Chairman in this House. Now, Sir, we propose to alter the Rules of Procedure in a case like this. We propose that instead of a Bill being referred to a Standing Committee by a Resolution of the House, it shall go, as a matter of course, to a Standing Committee, unless the House shall otherwise direct. That will be, as I believe, a great reform of the proceedings of Parliament. There may be Bills, I do not believe there will be many in a session, which the House will desire to retain in its own hands from first to last. The other Bills will go to the Standing Committees and, having been dealt with there will, on their return, be considered on the Report Stage by the House sitting in its full capacity. In one respect, at all events, I think we are assured of the support of the Leader of the Opposition, because in his evidence before the Select Committee on Procedure, he said—

> "It seems to me that a great blot, or the greatest of all blots, upon our procedure at this moment, is the fact that session after session goes by and Bills to which nobody, or very few, really object on their merits, are handed on from session to session, and perhaps from Government to Government, without becoming law. No political credit is to be got out of them, no Government loses by not opposing them; the people who lose are the public or the Civil Servants. If we were to earmark those Bills for Committee, I should think that one of the greatest reforms ever carried out, if it could be effected."

I hope that this change will have the effect of accomplishing what the right hon. Gentleman desires. I do not know that in every case he will be satisfied about the earmarking; but, at any rate, if we pass these new rules which I am proposing, Bills will pass much more freely than they have hitherto passed through the House. Criticism directed against the scheme appears to me to fall chiefly under three heads. The source to which I turn for those objections is in the evidence of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, who defines what they are. The first is that the difficulty in the way of such a scheme is that the Government possess insufficient control over the proceedings of the Committees; secondly, that the resources of the House, in point of numbers and of time, are unequal to the demand that will be made upon them, and that our proceedings will tend to suffer, if not in authority, at all events in efficiency; and, thirdly, that economies of time effected in Committee would be lost on Report. I believe that these difficulties are not so serious as at first sight they may appear. Take first the control of the Government. It is said that a serious demand will be made upon members of the Government. According to the scheme which I submit to the House, one of the Committees would be a Scottish Committee. I am not speaking now of the advantage or disadvantage of that proposal, but one of the Committees will be a Scottish Committee. We have the Secretary for Scotland, the Lord Advocate, and the Solicitor-General for Scotland, who are an ample staff for the conduct of the Scottish Committee. There will be two Committees to which Government Bills will be referred, and one for private Members' Bills. Private Members' Bills do not require such assiduous attention on the part of the Government, and they could always have an opportunity of considering them at a later stage. But for the other two Committees, Ministerial heads of departments and their under-secretaries, and the two law officers might, I think, very well face, without much difficulty, that part of their duty. Then there is the difficulty which, it is alleged, we shall find adequately to man the new Committees. That, after all, is the most formidable criticism that has been offered. The right hon. Gentleman gave some very alarming figures to the Select Committee about the demand made upon the House. I have his calculations here. He took four Grand Committees with eighty Members each, making a total of 320; then he took the twenty-nine Select Committees which he found to be sitting at the time, and he multiplied the twenty-nine Committees by fifteen — which was the ordinary maximum number of Members of each Select Committee—and that gave a total of 435. Adding the 320 and the 435, he got the alarming total of 755. Now, as this House consists of only 670 Members there was a deficiency which might well stagger one. But if the right hon. Gentleman's figures were correct, and if it were to be the case, as he implies, that every single Member sitting on the Committees was available for nothing else, and Members, so to speak, were absorbed and drained dry by the Committees, there would be nothing more to be said. But it is not so. Let me give the House the actual figures for last session. To begin with, instead of twenty-nine Select Committees there were only twenty, and the average number of Members was twelve, and not fifteen. Twelve twenties are 240, as against 435 which the right hon. Gentleman calculated. But these Committees did not sit the whole session, or anything like it. I have looked into the Returns on the subject, and I find that, taking the Standing Committees and the Select Committees, they sat, on an average, only seventeen days each—seventeen days out of a session which began in February and ended with December. So that there is a pretty fair margin of time, so far as the new Standing Committees are concerned. I have a few more figures. Last year was a year of almost unexampled pressure, but notwithstanding that fact I find that there were 207 Members who served on no Committee whatever. There were 244 who served on one; 104 on two; thirty-eight on three; thirteen on four; and one, the champion of all, who attended five. He was the hon. Member for East Clare. I do not know whether it was due to his natural desire for work, or to the much more natural desire of the Committee to have him among them. I have looked up the facts, and I find that he attended on no more than fifty-nine days during the session, after all, with all his five Committees. I think that goes to show that the resources of the House of Commons are by no means exhausted, and that there are plenty of hon. Members ready and willing to man the Committees which we propose to establish.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he has included Private Bill Committees?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes. I have the figures for the Private Bill Committees. About 100 Members sat on Private Bill Committees. Take the right hon. Gentleman's estimate, which I am not quite disposed to do, of the Members serving on Grand Committees at 320, and take the Select Committees at twelve each. The Members serving on the Select Committees are therefore 240. Then take those serving on Private Bill Committees, they are 100. Those altogether make 660, which still leaves a narrow margin. But appearances are deceptive, because the time occupied by Standing Committees and Select Committees last session was seventeen days, and that occupied by Private Bill Committees eight days Undoubtedly, therefore, it can be done, and done easily, and the effect will be that a larger period of time of Members will be spent in Committees. There may be many days when there is comparatively little legislative work to be done in the House of Commons itself. Is that undesirable if the work is being better done and more closely examined in a Standing Committee? I do not know that a little leisure during the sittings of this House is an undesirable thing to contemplate. It was suggested by one right hon. Gentleman whom hon. Members opposite regard with great respect, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, that it would be a good plan for the House of Commons to omit one day's sitting a week. I do not know whether that would be considered an advantage or a disadvantage; but how much more like the procedure of similar Assemblies in other countries would it be. But I believe the sense of active participation in the business of legislation, and the sense of being fully occupied in public work, instead of, shall I say, purely idling, or at all events not being occupied in public work, in the library or the newspaper room, would have a considerable effect in satisfying hon. Members that they were really of service to the public, and in provoking, in time, that desire to be useful in the public service, which I know exists, and which, I know, at the present time, finds little means of employment. That is the general scheme we have in view. I have endeavoured to speak of it as plainly and as effectively as I can. I think the present system is intolerable to everybody. I admit that this is an experiment, and I admit it is a very considerable change; but I believe it to be a thoroughly good change, a change in the right direction, and one calculated to redound to the advantage of the country and the credit of the House of Commons. I do not know whether now, as I have not moved anything and am only making a general statement, I should say a few words with reference to the Scottish Committee, which is a little outside this scheme. It stands on another footing. We have had experience of it before. We had a Scottish Committee many years ago for two years, and it did admirable work. I do not think any fault was found with the manner in which it conducted the business entrusted to it. It gave great satisfaction in Scotland, where we have different laws and different religious organisations and different hopes and aspirations. We differ in many ways from England, and what my countrymen have complained of every session that I have been in Parliament is that the opinion of Scottish Members is overridden in the lobbies by the opinions and votes of Englishmen, and that this is unfair, and vitiates, from the Scottish point of view, the progress of Scottish legislation. I think great contentment as well as great advantages will be given to Scotland, and considerable relief will be afforded to this House, if we revive the old Committee of Scottish Members, and say that all Scottish Bills shall be referred to that Committee. For that proposal much can be said, and some things that can be said against it will come out. It is a plain proposal which I shall take an opportunity of laying before the House. I will not complicate the matter by bringing in the question of Ireland. I do not know that there is any desire for an Irish Committee, and although Welsh Members may desire to have their views expressed and every weight given to their strong opinions in Committee, there is very seldom a purely Welsh Bill brought before the House, and, therefore, they are not in the same position as Scotland. As I say, I have put as plainly as possible before the House our views and intentions and the reason why we propose this change, which I admit is an enormous change in our procedure, and I now leave it to the judgment of the House. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to—

(*a*) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidation Fund or Appropriation Bills; or

(*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders.

(2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the whole House in respect to other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes, and from the Member who opposes, the Motion, shall, without further debate, put the Question thereon.—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The right hon. Gentleman has made a very wide proposal in a very conciliatory speech couched in very moderate language, but he has not attempted to minimise the greatness or wide bearing of the change he proposes. I do not defend our existing procedure or contend that it is in all respects satisfactory. I think there is great room for improvement, and I hope we may enter into and carry through this discussion in its details, as well as in its principles, in the non-Party spirit for which the right hon. Gentleman has expressed the hope. By that I mean that I hope when we come to deal with this matter in detail we shall find that elasticity and willingness on the part of the Government to meet reasonable objections that may be urged which is always associated with a non-Party debate. I wish I could welcome the proposals which the right hon. Gentleman has made. They are in the main three. The first is to increase the number of Grand Committees from two to four. The second is that, with certain narrow exceptions, all Bills should be referred to these Committees unless otherwise ordered. The third is that a Scottish Committee shall be established, to which Scottish Bills shall be referred. There are minor proposals to which the right hon. Gentleman only referred in passing, dealing with the enlargement of the powers and the widening of the procedure of Committees upstairs. I do not propose to deal with those, as only once, I think, during the fifteen or sixteen years of my Membership of this House have I, owing to various circumstances, sat on a Grand Committee, and, therefore, I have a very limited experience of Grand Committees. I do not, therefore, propose to discuss this question, in the main, from the point of view of the Committees upstairs, but from the point of view of the House itself. What is the difficulty that meets us in our proceedings? It is worth while to ask that question before considering the remedy. The remedy which the Government suggests is based on the assumption that the House has insufficient time to do its work. I submit that it is not so; that it has sufficient time, but that it is badly allocated to the various matters which the House has to discuss. Much of it is wasted. Trifling details often occupy a vast amount of time, and Bills, in themselves non-contentious, often become contentious not because of what they contain, but because of the place they occupy in the programme of business. If we could sift the non-contentious business from the contentious, and allocate the time of the House between the two classes of business, I venture to say that the time of the House, in a reasonable session, would be quite sufficient for all the House has to do. In my view, therefore, it is not that the House of Commons has not sufficient time to deal with its business, but that its time is ill distributed. That is at the root of our difficulty. The proposals which the Prime Minister makes do not affect the distribution of our time for the better. I think the Government are proceeding on wrong lines. I do not say that it is easy to devise practical measures which would carry out such a scheme as my observations have pointed to. I do not at all minimise the difficulty, but I think something could be done. The first effort made to put some limit to the time which might be spent on a single question was through the closure. We all know that for a complicated and contentious Bill—a Bill which any large section means to fight line by line and word by word—the closure is an inefficient instrument, unless you are prepared, as sometimes you ought to be, to give practically the whole of a session to the passage of one Bill, as was done by Sir William Harcourt and the Government of which the Prime Minister was a member at the time of the famous Budget Bill which brought about a revision of the death duties. The closure was never moved, and practically the whole time of the House during that session was given to that one great measure. There are occasions on which that ought to be done, and when no less time is sufficient in which to discuss the important questions raised by a great measure. But trusting to the closure alone has, in the case of a great and complicated measure arousing fierce opposition, broken down, and has been proved to be insufficient for the conduct of our debates with due expedition; and accordingly from the simple closure we moved to closure by compartments. It may be said that as the time to be spent on the whole Bill, and on certain sections, is allocated in that way, closure by compartments does carry out the idea which I have in my mind. But it has always been my opinion that that procedure is vitiated by the fact that the decision as to what the time shall be allotted to is in each case the arbitrary decision of the Government, of course subject to the acceptance of their proposals by the majority of the House of Commons of the day. But that is practically no check. The Government have to make up their mind what time they think it reasonable that the discussion of a certain Bill should take, and then the House practically accepts the limit so arbitrarily fixed by them. What I think the Government ought to have done, instead of taking Bills away from the purview of the House in their Committee stage, was to try to develop some machinery for allocating the time of the House, not arbitrarily, and at the mere fiat of the Government, as is done under the closure by compartments, but by an impartial Committee of the House chosen somewhat on the lines of the Committee of Selection, or the Public Accounts Committee. I say the Public Accounts Committee, because I think there is a precedent there which ought to be followed in a case of this kind—the precedent that the Chairman shall always be a Member of the Opposition, not acting as a Party man. The House ought to be so jealous of its privileges and liberties that it should contain a majority in Committee rather of Members of the Opposition than of those who have a majority, for the moment, in the House itself. I do not say that such a scheme is easy to make, but I do say that I would infinitely sooner travel along these lines, and make some sacrifice in order to obtain that object, than along lines or make sacrifices to attain the object which is embodied in the Motion proposed by the right hon. Gentleman. He proposes to double the number of Grand Committees. I think there are many objections to that. I venture, with all respect, to say that he has made far too light of the burden and strain which will be imposed on Members of the House. I do not know what the views of the House generally are on the subject. I have once or twice said in the House that I am, in one sense, a professional politician. I have given up practically the whole of my life to politics. This House is my first care and my first business, and I can practically devote to the service of the House the whole of the time that is required for that purpose. I think I may say that, with the exception of last year, when special circumstances caused me to be absent, I have devoted very steady attention to the business of the House. I think that for the first ten years I sat in Parliament I did not dine out of the House five times in a year, when the House was sitting at dinner-time. Therefore, I do not appeal to the House as a lazy man, or one who is not zealous for the service of the House. I think it is of great importance for the House, perhaps of greater importance than ever before, having regard to the increasing interference of Government and of Parliament by legislation in the business affairs of the country, that we should not make the service of the House so onerous that men who cannot give their whole time to it cannot afford to be members of it at all. Let me take some illustrations. We are often inclined to chaff legal Members on their intervention in debate, but who can say that in this House, and in the discussion of legislation in Committees upstairs, we can afford to be without constant advice from the legal Members of the House on the many complicated questions of law which arise? We have had a discussion where no law officer has been in charge of a Bill in Committee upstairs, and where the law officers have been absent during the debate here, and time has been wasted by the hour for the want of the legal direction which only experts can give. But there are a large number of Members of this House who have been at one time or another, and a considerable number who still are, active in the local life in the part of the country in which they live, as members of county councils or borough councils, or serving in one of the many capacities in which men of leisure, and light and leading, are called upon to serve in their various districts. That is a class most valuable to us in this House. We are constantly imposing new duties on local authorities and new charges on the local ratepayers, and the guidance of men who have personal experience of the practical working of our schemes and theories is invaluable. Then there is the class of business men who have a certain amount of leisure, and who are now glad and proud to devote a portion of that leisure to the service of their country in Parliament; but they can only do that if at the same time they can maintain control over the businesses with which their whole position is bound up, and for the credit of which they are responsible. I have said nothing of the Labour Members, but not because I do not think it is very desirable that we should have what I call direct labour representatives in this House. I think it is very desirable that we should. I do not know how this question affects them, or how far they have other occupations which demand their attention during a portion of the day. I can quite understand that what I say may apply equally to them. I think I carry with me the feeling of the House when I say that the country would be worse governed if you excluded, in any considerable number, the classes of people of whom I have spoken from the possibility of giving service as Members of this House. But you propose to double the number of Grand Committees. You are to have four Grand Committees sitting in addition to all the Select Committees and private Bill Committees. In addition there are such calls as may be made upon Members for sitting on Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees. All those duties are to be discharged by Members in addition to their duties in attending this House. What will happen? What does happen even now? The Prime Minister talks as if every Member of the House were available for service on the Grand Committees; but they are not. By the custom of the House no lawyers are available for service on the Grand Committees, and in the case of all Committees upstairs lawyers are habitually excused, because to enforce on them regular attendance on those Committees, as everyone knows, would drive them out of the House, unless they could afford to abandon the practice of their profession. [AN HON. MEMBER: A good job too.] There are many others who might be able to give a certain amount of attendance, but who cannot sit regularly on these Grand Committees. It is within the knowledge of Members of the House that when there are only two Committees sitting it is not an infrequent thing to be unable to proceed with business for want of a quorum. If you multiply the demands you will naturally be still more constantly unable to find a sufficient number of Members. What happens under these circumstances? When Members of a Grand Committee have other calls upon their time, and when they have no particular interest in a Bill, they absent themselves if they can. Many a Bill is left to be considered in Committee by a little knot—I do not want to use offensive terms, and yet I hardly know how to describe the position—of men strongly prejudiced in favour of some particular course on some narrow issue. If you have a Bill which is ordinarily described as a "fad Bill," every one who is interested in the fad will be there. I am not suggesting that all the faddists are on one side of the House. I have my own fads. But all the faddists would be there, and would be represented out of all proportion to the Members who stand for the general common sense of the House. I am opposed to legislation by experts, but I am equally opposed to legislation by faddists. I think that the best legislation is that which is decided by the common sense of the House after hearing the opinions of the experts and the faddists. Sometimes these make a valuable contribution to our discussions, but it will be a bad day when we are guided in our legislation by them alone. By this scheme you will put too great a strain on the ordinary Members of the House, deteriorate the composition of the Grand Committees, and the work of legislation will be less satisfactory than at present. The Prime Minister intends to make these Grand Committees take a far more important part in legislation than hitherto. I have in my mind the experience of last session when a private Member's Bill was sent up to a Grand Committee and the only representative of the Government was a member of His Majesty's household and he refused to take charge of the Bill. The Grand Committee suffered very much, I fear, from the lack of suitable advice and guidance from a responsible Minister who would have had access to all the information which might have been given by the heads of the Department and the law officers of the Crown. We know that when the Bill came back to the House the Prime Minister adopted it, and then it had to be entirely recast, because when it had to stand the fire of criticism of the whole House the Government did not attempt to defend its salient features. There is a concentration of the attention of the country on the proceedings of the Whole House which you can never have on proceedings before committees.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): You have the Report stage.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, but do you think that that is a satisfactory way of legislating? Even the right hon. Gentleman's own Party does not think so. Does the right hon. Gentleman not remember that on the Ministerial side of the House the procedure was considered highly unsatisfactory of allowing a Bill to go through Committee upstairs, and bringing it down here at the last moment to be transformed at a stage when the right of Members to speak is strictly limited as well as the opportunity of getting any explanation from the Minister in charge? I differ profoundly from the views of the right hon. Gentleman. There are to be four Grand Committees, one of them to deal with private Members' Bills. But how is the question to be decided as to which private Members' Bills shall have precedence? That point was not explained by the Prime Minister. One of the new Grand Committees is to devote itself exclusively to Bills dealing with Scottish business; but private Members' Bills can never have precedence over Government Bills on that Grand Committee, because all Scottish Bills—Government and private alike—must go to that Grand Committee unless specially retained in the House. On the other hand, if an English private Member on the first private Members' day in the session, carries his Bill to a Second Reading, it will at once have precedence in the Grand Committee appointed to deal with private Members' Bills; but if a Scottish private Member has the fortune of the ballot over an Irish or Welsh Member, and his Bill is referred to the Scottish Grand Committee, that Bill will have no precedence until after the Government business has been dealt with. That is a point which the right hon. Gentleman will have to deal with. He may say that the new Rules as drafted will not impose a new disability on private Members for Scotland who have been fortunate enough to carry their private Bills to the Scottish Grand Committee. But the Scottish Grand Committee was no part of the original scheme; it has been grafted on it. It is an excrescence which I hope, at a subsequent stage, the right hon. Gentleman will be persuaded by the House to remove. Now, I come to the crucial point, viz., the proposal to refer all Bills to these Grand Committees, unless otherwise ordered. How does the House exercise its functions in legislation? It has been made a matter of complaint that the power of the Executive has been growing at the expense of the House of Commons. I think that is true and that probably it is advantageous on the whole. But it has been made a subject of complaint by private Members that the House of Commons is becoming more and more a mere agency for registering the will of the Government of the day, and that the only real power left to the House of Commons is to turn out the Government. Though it is true that that tendency is at work and that changes have occurred, at any rate there still remains one check which the House of Commons can apply, and that is in Committee of the Whole House on Government Bills. If the House objects to the Second Reading it means that the House is willing to turn out the Government. On the Report stage you have a very limited opportunity. Any real chance of influencing legislation is reserved for the Committee stage of Bills. Any one who has been in the House for a considerable number of years can recall instance after instance where a minority, by force of argument and sound reasoning, and by bringing up facts not within the knowledge of Ministers, have compelled the Government to admit changes in their proposed legislation—amendments and alterations sometimes even of a far-reaching character. I maintain that the one opportunity that the House has of making its mind felt in legislation is the Committee stage, and that is what the right hon. Gentleman proposes should exist no longer. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster appears to attach great importance to the Report stage. I attach much less importance to the Report stage than to the Committee stage. An Amendment is sometimes moved which is very inadequate for the purpose in view, or it may happen that a Member does not appreciate the force and extent of the change which he has suggested, but as soon as he has moved the House expects an answer from the Government as to the line which they will take. The Minister in charge of the Bill speaks early; but a new aspect may be given to the discussion, showing that what has been treated in the first instance as a mere technicality involves a great principle or some important matter of fact. On the Report stage the Minister moves his clauses dealing with questions of this kind, and again and again further discussion has shown that the most important points at issue have been entirely missed in the discussion which has taken place or have been entirely misunderstood. In Committee you can deal with matters of that character, but on Report stage the Minister can only speak once, whereas in Committee he can speak many times and deal with points as they arise. I may be told that another Minister can come to the assistance of his colleague, but there is always behind a Bill one Minister who has all the experience of his Department and the knowledge he has gained from deputations and from correspondence, and he alone can satisfactorily deal with the questions raised. I know that on one occasion the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy expressed the opinion with regard to one important Bill that there was only one Minister who could be put in charge of it, and that nobody could take his place. If that is so, and there is no doubt it is, I say that the discussion on Report is the most ineffective way, and comes at a most inopportune time, for a Minister to deal with questions of the kind I have indicated. But much as I am ready and anxious to see our procedure reformed, I would invite the Government not to restrict our opportunities in Committee, but, if it is necessary to restrict them at all, to do so on Report. If you give full and fair opportunities of discussion in Committee you may fairly say all the old points of controversy shall not be reopened on Report. It may be a great change in our procedure, but you might say that the questions raised in Committee shall not be re-opened, and that the discussion shall be limited to points arising out of the changes made in the Bill in Committee. That would further the progress of the Bill; it would lessen the amount of time which our discussions occupy, but it would increase the control of this House—the only control which is operative in great measures—afforded by the opportunity of examination in Committee. The Government admit that some measures must not be treated in the way they propose shall be the rule, but I wonder on what principle they have made their selection. The resolution says that the Order shall not apply to (*a*) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders. First of all I wonder why some of those Bills are included, and then I wonder why others are excluded. Take the Consolidated Fund Bill. It is notorious that there is nothing which can be discussed on the Committee stage of that Bill, except certain technical questions, and I should have thought that it was eminently fitted to be entrusted to a Committee upstairs. I can understand the Finance Bill's not being sent to a Grand Committee, but there are other Bills just as important in their constitutional bearing which the House might equally well reserve to itself as the Finance Bill. We live under an unwritten Constitution, and although the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister referred us to foreign example, he did not refer us to Colonial example, but I think in the great Colonies, among those of our own blood, the practice is more assimilated to the practice of this House than to that of foreign nations. The powers of this House are inconceivably greater than the powers of any foreign Parliament, greater than those of the Congress of the United States, greater than those of the French Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate. The powers of this House and of this Parliament are without parallel among the Parliamentary powers in the world. Parliament can deal with any and every constitutional question in exactly the same way as and without any further formalities than those with which it deals with a railway Bill or a sewage measure. Is it right that the great power which the House of Commons has in this respect should be transferred from the House as a whole to a Committee of eighty Members upstairs? If there is to be a rule of this kind the Government must consent to exclude not merely Finance Bills, but Bills dealing with the Constitution and all Bills dealing with the Army and Navy, linked as they so intimately are with our Constitution. There are other Bills also which ought to be excluded. But meantime I ask the Government this question, On what ground do they exclude Finance Bills, and Finance Bills only, from going upstairs? I come to the last of the right hon. Gentleman's proposals, on which he said very little but the importance of which he did not seem to realise. It is the proposal that all Scottish Bills should stand referred to a Scottish Committee, composed of all the Scottish Members with a few English Members. There is a precedent for that, I think, of right hon. Gentleman's own creation, or the creation of a Government of which he was a member. I think I voted against him at that time, and I think he will not be surprised that I have not changed my mind since. After all, we do not sit here to legislate as Englishmen for England, as Irishmen for Ireland, as Scotsmen for Scotland, or Welshmen for Wales; we sit as the Legislature of the United Kingdom. It is true that when a reasonable spirit prevails we attach importance to the views of hon. Members coming from the particular part of the United Kingdom with which the Bills are concerned. But it is a constitutional innovation, and I think a bad constitutional innovation, to attempt to split up this House into national sections to deal with legislation instead of making the legislation the result of the common sense of the House as a whole. The Prime Minister or one of his colleagues will perhaps give us some little further explanation as to what he considers purely Scottish Bills. I presume what he has in his mind is a Bill that affects Scotland only, but it may also affect other interests in the United Kingdom. We had a purely Scottish Bill introduced by the Secretary for Scotland yesterday, and the Government admit that if that Bill is accepted the principles embodied in it cannot be confined to Scotland, but must be extended to England. It is very easy to say that the House can decide on the Second or Third Reading as to whether they will accept the principle or not, because the question of how you put the principle into practice is decided in Committee. But now it is suggested that matters shall be settled in a Committee upstairs on which hon. Members interested may have no representation.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland) inquired what the right hon. Gentleman meant by saying that there was any sort of intention to apply the Scottish Education Bill to England?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think the hon. Member can have followed the course of the debate yesterday, or he would have been aware that it was admitted by the Government themselves that the principles of the Bill before the House were such as should be applied to this country.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not think anyone could have said that. What we said was that the main principles which we apply to Scotland we were prepared to apply to England also, but we committed nobody but ourselves.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I accept the right hon. Gentleman's correction. The right hon. Gentleman says he did not commit the House to such a declaration; but if the House accepts the Bill there is no distinction between the circumstances of England and Scotland upon which you can in the opinion of the Government advocate exceptional legislation for Scotland and refuse it to England. I accept the right hon. Gentleman's explanation. He says he does not compromise the House but only the Government and himself by the declaration he makes. If the House accepts the Bill there is no distinction between the circumstances of England and Scotland upon which you can set up exceptional legislation for Scotland and refuse it to England. It will be admitted that we may have a Bill confined to Scotland laying down certain principles and giving them particular application. But having once laid down those principles you could find no logical ground for refusing to England any demand for similar legislation. That being so, ought not English Members to be present in their proper proportion when this legislation is considered? They are to be put in a miserable minority on the Committee, where they will be always outvoted when discussing principles which may be applied to them and which may be put into a different form by somebody else. The right hon. Gentleman said Scotland had laws of its own. True. The marriage law of Scotland is different from that of England. I think it is a great misfortune to both England and Scotland as well as to individuals. But would an amendment of the Scottish marriage law be of no consequence to England? It might not be if there was no intermarriage between the Scottish and English people, but happily that is not the case. There is intermarriage. Supposing there was legislation with regard to the Moray Firth. That, I suppose, would be a Scottish measure to be decided by this Scottish Committee, but if it was a penal measure the penalties would be directed largely against people coming from other countries.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Second Reading would be passed by this House, and it would come back to this House in its other stages.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It would come back, but we should not have the chance on Report of raising any particular point. If the Minister gave an unsatisfactory answer we should not be able to follow it up with adequate discussion. On Report it is not possible really to press points home without the co-operation of a considerable number of speakers. Then why is this proposal confined to Scotland? I dislike it; I think it is wrong and vicious *ab initio*, but the Government think it is good. But if it is good why is it not extended? The Prime Minister said he would have no objection to extend it to Wales, but the Welsh had not enough business to keep a Committee going. I think if the right hon. Gentleman cultivates these different interests in different districts instead of cultivating the progressive work that now goes on, he will find that if the Welsh have not enough business to keep a Welsh Committee now they will have in a very short time. But what about English business? There is a good deal of English business. The right hon. Gentleman says that Scottish Members complain that Scottish opinion is overridden by English opinion and English votes. Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the case of England? Why are Englishmen to be told that if the Welsh have any business they shall have a Committee of their own, that the Scottish shall have a Committee of their own, that if the Irish desire it they shall have a Committee, but that England is to be governed by the united voices of Irish, Welsh, Scottish, and English Members, and that English questions may be decided by a majority of non-English opinion? I do not want to treat this matter in a Party spirit, but I cannot help reflecting that there have been times during which a Liberal Government was in power when it would have been extremely inconvenient to have had their English business referred to an English Committee, because such a procedure would have resulted in their being unable to carry any legislation at all. I dislike this proposal, and I say further that it would be a gross injustice to carry it through in the limited form proposed and to allow a minority of Englishmen to be out-voted on ordinary English affairs. Can anyone conceive that this House is not to consider legislation as a whole, but to bring its mind to bear only on local legislation? The right hon. Gentleman says he is not aware that the Irish Members want a Committee of this kind. No, they want something different, and on another occasion we understand the Government is going to give it to them. Therefore we are to have one measure applied to Scotland and the same to Wales, if Wales can find work for it, a different measure applied to Ireland, and a third to England. It seems to me that we in the House of Commons ought to try to unite our interests as much as possible, to consider all questions in common, to submit our questions to the decision of the House as a whole, and bow to the decision of the House as a whole. I hope I have not in any sense made a Party speech. I recognise the greatness of the issue involved, and how important it is that some improvement should be made in our procedure. I have even indicated the line which I think the House ought to take to seek a solution. I wish I could cordially support the proposals the Prime Minister has made, but unless the right hon. Gentleman is prepared so to modify them as absolutely to change their character I cannot support him.

*MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said the right hon. Gentleman had admitted that their procedure needed great reform, but he thought the method proposed was not the way to do it. He feared the right hon. Gentleman must have forgotten the declaration of a very distinguished Member of the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, on this subject. There were three aspects from which the consideration of the procedure of the House could be approached: the aspect of the supporters of the Government who were anxious to see legislation carried through; that of hon. Gentlemen who sat in opposition who were not so anxious to see it go through; and, thirdly, the point of view of those who, when the House was in Committee, occupied the Chair. That had been his position for many hours, years ago, and he should never forget the different point of view that gave to anyone who enjoyed it even temporary. He approached the question from a purely non-partisan point of view. To him the House of Commons was more than a place in which to advocate even Liberal views. It was part of our great Constitution, and whichever Party was in power the House of Commons should be the fitting instrument to carry out the will of the electors as expressed at general elections. The right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken and the House were perhaps not aware of the extraordinary weight of authority behind the proposal of the Prime Minister. He made bold to say that the proposal came with a greater weight of Parliamentary authority than almost any other proposal that had been made during the last twenty years. Sir Erskine May formulated this very scheme in 1854 and developed it in an interesting article in the *Edinburgh Review* of that year. Two of Mr. Speaker's predecessors in the Chair, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre—who made more reforms off his own bat, so to speak, than any Speaker who preceded or succeeded him—and Mr. Denison, both expressed their approval of it. Nothing was done until 1882 when Mr. Gladstone rather tentatively set up two Standing Committees. Seven Bills only were referred to those Committees, of which four received the Royal Assent, and then the system slept for a number of years. Anyone who read the biography of Lord Randolph Churchill would see, in an interesting letter to Lord Salisbury written in the autumn of 1885, Lord Randolph Churchill propounded very much this scheme, setting up Committees and giving them powers far beyond what was now proposed, because he suggested that the Report stage should also lie with Grand Committee. Nothing was done. In 1886 a Committee was set up by the Conservative Government when Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was Leader of the House. In a few weeks afterwards when the Liberal Government came into power Sir William Harcourt was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he brought the same proposals before the same Committee. The proposal now before them was practically identical with that adopted by the Committee set up by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Sir William Harcourt. The Hartington Committee in 1886 recommended—

> "That every Public Bill after the Second Reading, except a Bill originating in Committee of Ways and Means, or a Bill for the confirmation of any Provisional Order, unless the House shall otherwise order, shall be referred to a Standing Committee of the Whole House."

And who constituted that Committee? It included Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Mr. Bright, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Healy, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Sir John Mowbray, Mr. Sexton, Mr. W. H. Smith, and others. Those names were a perfect galaxy of Parliamentary talent. He doubted very much whether they could find fifteen or sixteen other men of such great Parliamentary experience and calibre. Therefore the scheme came before the House with the authority of that great Committee. There was a division taken on the word "every," Mr. Sexton moving that it should only be when the House ordered. In the division the Amendment was negatived by twenty-one against five. Therefore the proposal now under discussion came before the House with all that exceptional authority behind it. It was made no less than twenty-one years ago, and why was it not carried out at that time? Because and only because the House was engulfed in the Home Rule maelstrom. In the year 1888 Mr. W. H. Smith, who was Leader of the House, set up two Grand Committees and altered Standing Orders Nos. 45 to 50 to the form in which they stood at the present time. They had had some experience of those Grand Committees, for they had been sitting from the year 1888 to the year 1905. There were two interesting Returns of their work, one on the Motion of Lord Hugh Cecil and the other on his own Motion. He found that between 1888 and 1905 162 Bills were referred to Grand Committees, of which 157 got through Committee and 120 received Royal Assent. Those 120 Bills were a most valuable addition to the Statute-book. He thought the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, who had had considerable experience of Grand Committees, would admit that the work of those Committees when properly done was highly satisfactory. He had listened with considerable surprise to the description given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Worcestershire as to what went on upon those Committees, This account was rather discounted by the right hon. Gentleman's frank admission that his personal knowledge was of the very slightest. He agreed that legislation should not emanate from either experts on the one side or faddists on the other, but it should be the outcome of the practical sober common sense of the Members of the House of Commons. That was what they got from these Committees, and they had done their work in the past in a most efficient way.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think I made any charge against Grand Committees as they now exist. What I did say was that if you multiply Grand Committees you increase the strain on hon. Members. If you do that I fear you will not have the general sense of the House represented on those Committees, and there will be a tendency for only those hon. Members who have a particular interest in the particular measure before the Grand Committee to attend its sittings.

*MR. ELLIS said he gathered that the fears of the right hon. Gentleman were based on the fear that they would increase the strain upon hon. Members. If that were so he would not be in favour of the proposals now before them. He was perfectly satisfied that the adoption of the scheme would not have that effect. The figures quoted by the Prime Minister disposed of the chimera of Members being overburdened with work. He thought all the Committees necessary and all the necessary work could be manned by 670 Members. Perhaps he would be pardoned for saying that he spoke with more years of experience than the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Worcestershire, and he was perfectly satisfied that the fear of this proposal causing a greater strain upon hon. Members was entirely unfounded. He was inclined to think that the right hon. Gentleman had spoken too highly of the features of the Committee work of the House. After all, it must be borne in mind that a Committee of the Whole House to which every one of the 670 Members could attend as he pleased was a comparatively modern institution. Grand Committees were the old form of doing the business of Parliament. He did not think that any system could be worse than a Committee of the Whole House where Members came in and went out not knowing what was the question before the Committee; altogether the work of the House of Commons was never seen to less advantage than during the great straggling Committee stages. The real question was, did they wish the House to be made an efficient instrument for transacting public business? Did they admit that it was perfectly impossible for the Members to deal individually with every Bill that came before it? The great difficulty in the House of Commons had always been to know what it could not deal with. The question was whether they could increase the power of the House by setting up these Committees. He would like to quote some weighty words by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham who had always desired that the House should get through its business. Speaking in 1904 the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "I wish to go back to those early days when Mr. Gladstone proposed his great scheme of Grand Committees. It appears to me that progress cannot be satisfactorily attained in legislation, in social reform, in all the work with which the House has to deal unless we secure some measure of delegation. I am in favour, therefore, putting aside for a moment the merits of this particular Bill, of a more general application to Committees of this House. We can have two or three or even more sitting at the same time, and we can, therefore, double or treble the work which the House may perform. If it is alleged, as it has been alleged, that in these Committees there is not sufficient arrangement for dealing with obstruction, then I for one will be perfectly prepared to vote for such an alteration of the rules as will give the Chairman of these Committees greater power."

From what he had said it would be seen that the proposal of the Government had the highest authority behind it. All experience was in favour of it. He was perfectly satisfied that it would not increase but lighten the burden of the House. It would be the best method of advancing business and of enabling them to transact the work which the nation expected of them. Therefore he most cordially supported the proposal which the Government had made.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he did not desire to say more than a few words with reference to the criticisms made by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer on the question of the proposal to create a Scottish Committee. If Scottish Members asked for a Scottish Committee he would support them in their claim, and if, as he rather anticipated, their claim would go to the extent of having it composed exclusively of Scottish Members, that was a claim which he would also support. So far as Ireland was concerned, the question had been raised whether they would ask for an Irish Committee. He might say they would not. What they would ask for was something entirely different, and for his own part, under existing circumstances, he would make no claim whatever for an Irish Committee under this scheme. Having said so much with reference to the Scottish Committee, and expressed his want of sympathy with the criticisms of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer on that point, he would like to say that in regard to much that was contained in the earlier portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech he found himself entirely in sympathy. He thought many of the right hon. Gentleman's arguments were strong and cogent, and he had heard no answer to them in the speech which had just been delivered. The right hon. Gentleman had made a somewhat startling statement when he said that they had plenty of time in which to do their business. He supposed that the right hon. Gentleman meant that the House of Commons had adequate time for the transaction of such business as he and his Party thought they should perform. The right hon. Gentleman spoke as the representative of a Party which was notoriously not in favour of very considerable legislation. He remembered that on one occasion Mr. Disraeli said that in his opinion Parliament was only useful during the recess. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Worcestershire probably thought there was adequate time for such business as he desired to see transacted. He would like, however, to ask hon. Members who constituted the overwhelming majority of the House whether it was not their experience that there was a block of business in the House, and that there was an insufficient amount of time to deal with all those great social and other questions which they believed lay at the foundation of the future prosperity of the country. The Prime Minister had very clearly told the House that his proposal was only an experimental one, made with the object of giving new life and vigour to Parliament. It was the latest device for the purpose of enabling the House to perform an impossible task. He had for many years taken a keen interest in all matters connected with Parliamentary procedure. He had been present at many debates on the question and had taken part in most of them. He did not think there was anything more pathetic than the spectacle which the House had presented consistently for the last twenty-six years of endeavouring year after year to amend its procedure so as to enable it to perform an absolutely impossible task. Since he came into the House he had seen the procedure revolutionised, and each proposal to change it had been sustained by the arguments they had heard that evening. It was simply an experiment to see whether new life and vigour could not be given to this Assembly, and the machinery made to work more efficiently. Everyone of the Amendments which had been carried by the House in the hope that they would achieve that object had failed, and the accumulation of business had increased year by year, and admittedly in the whole of the last quarter of a century there had never been such a block of business waiting to be transacted as there was at the present moment. What changes had he witnessed in the House? First of all, the closure was introduced in order to prevent individual Members from speaking too long. Then, as the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had reminded them, closure by compartments was introduced, whereby the discussion of great measures could be put an end to, and sometimes scores of clauses passed without any discussion at all. Then a proposal was made for curtailing the discussion in Committee of Supply. The old cherished tradition that it was the right of the House of Commons to discuss grievances when Supply was under consideration was practically put an end to by the Supply Resolution, which allocated a certain number of days to the discussion of Supply and provided that all Supply not discussed at a given date, sometimes amounting to millions and tens of millions, should be voted under the guillotine without any discussion at all. Then came the institution of Grand Committees. He well remembered how it was said that Grand Committees would lead to such a decentralisation of work that the Parliamentary machine would work smoothly. They knew that so far as effecting that object was concerned, the institution of those Committees had been an absolute failure. He did not say that they had not done good work, but from the point of view of relieving the pressure of work in the House they had failed, because that pressure was greater to-day than ever. Then they had had constant Autumn sessions. In his opinion six months' hard work in the House was about as much as human nature could stand. He was speaking as one who always attended the sittings of the House, and for a man who practically lived in the House when it was sitting he held that six months was quite as much as human nature could stand. As they were all aware, they had again and again exceeded that limit, and the House had sat for eight or ten months, and still the pressure of work continued to be as great as ever. Every one of the changes which had been made had been supported by the same old arguments. They were told there was a glut of business, that the Parliamentary machine could no work, andthat the particular proposal under discussion would give new life and vigour, and enable the machine to get through its task. At the end of it all, they were now being asked to discuss the latest device for making the machine to work. He had risen to say that in his judgment the present proposal, if carried, would have precisely the same fate as every one of those which he had enumerated. It would not make the Parliamentary machine work, and it would not put new life and vigour into that Assembly, because it was a reform going upon entirely wrong lines. He was afraid that if he attempted to go into the merits of the proposal he would have to agree with many of the criticisms made by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. The proposed Committees were to have great and serious legislative proposals put before them. It should not be forgotten that former Grand Committees were only instituted to deal with non-controversial measures, and he thought everybody would agree that wherever that principle had been departed from, and a controversial measure had been sent to one of those Committees, the result had not been satisfactory. Now there was to be a change, and four Committees were to be appointed instead of two, and great and necessarily controversial proposals were to be sent to them. If those Committees were adequately to perform their work they must have upon them the leading Members of the House. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer had spoken of the necessity of the Government being represented. He ventured to say that no great legislative proposal could be seriously considered by one of those Committees unless the Government was represented by some of its most important members, who could sit upon the Committees from hour to hour and moment to moment in the name of the whole Government. Similarly the Opposition would have to be represented, and, in fact, all the more efficient and active Members of the House would have to be present. It was all very well for the right hon. Gentleman who spoke last to say that the strain would not be too great, but he held that if Members representing the Government, the Leaders of the Opposition, and the leading men in other quarters of the House had to come down at eleven o'clock every day, work on until four in these Committees, and afterwards come to the House and take part in public business until eleven o'clock at night, the strain would be intolerable and the system would break down. They would not and could not attend. Any measure passed in Grand Committee in the absence of such Members would, of course, on Report be discussed at just as great length as if it had been in Committee of the Whole House. The only saving of time would arise from the fact that Members could speak only once. He did not think that would make for the saving of time under the conditions which he had indicated. If a great controversial measure came down from Grand Committee for discussion on Report the fact that each Member could speak only once would not save time. He did not believe that the scheme would take away from the ken of the House the details of great legislative proposals. These details must be discussed in the House. He did not believe if the proposal was carried into effect it would seriously shorten the discussion on Bills or seriously lighten the load of business which rested on the House. That business was growing by leaps and bounds. His firm conviction was that the only remedy for the admitted block of business and the failure of the machine to work was to be found in a real system of decentralisation. The House was trying to do impossible things. It was trying in one Chamber in a limited number of months every year to perform the work of at least five legislative assemblies. From day to day the most extraordinary variety of work was thrown on that Assembly. One day they would be discussing a great matter affecting hundreds of millions of people in one of the great dependencies; the next day, or perhaps the same day, they would be called upon to discuss the making of a sewer in Rathmines. On the following day they would be called upon to discuss some great educational problem affecting the people of England, and on the same day they would perhaps be asked to discuss some small trivial question affecting the local government of Scotland or Wales. That was the absurdity of the present system, and no rules which they could devise would really free the House. What was wanted was a system of decentralisation. If Grand Committees were to be given the management of the local affairs of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, he would say that they were on the right path, but so long as in that Assembly they attempted at one and the same time to discuss great English, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish problems they could not by any new rules prevent the confusion and chaos which existed. In the programme of the present session there were the Army Bill, the Budget Bill, the Small Holdings Bill, the Licensing Bill, Bills dealing with the Government of Ireland and with the question of higher education in Ireland. He would ask any sensible man in the House whether he could honestly say that it was possible, no matter how they changed the rules, in six months for the same Chamber to transact all that legislative business in addition to the necessary financial business of the year. It could not be done. From the experience of many years past they knew that not more than one really great Bill had any chance of being passed into law in one session, and even that could not be done except by closure by compartments, the use of which was a standing invitation to noble Lords in another place to exercise their nefarious powers. He did not think that the debate should pass without his entering a protest. He remembered that when a great man in that House was accused of always making the same protest he replied, "Yes, it is the same, but it is true." And so on every occasion of this kind he raised his voice in protest. He had been pointing out for years that these petty changes of procedure would not effect the object of the Government. As years went on the business of the House would become greater and greater, and the machine would work more and more slowly, and the only hope was in such a decentralisation of purely local business as would leave the Imperial Parliament with its hands free to deal with those Imperial questions which alone ought to occupy its attention. That was the only direction from which relief could come. If a division were taken he would not vote against the Government, but he would not vote for it. He did not believe there was the remotest chance of the change effecting its object. If it came to a square issue, for or against, he would mark his utter want of belief in the efficiency of the proposals of the Government by abstaining from voting.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said he wanted as Chairman of the Committee of Selection to explode the idea that there was any difficulty in getting Members to act on the Committees. There were in the House a large number of young, eager, and able Members who were all anxious for work. He had great confidence that they would always have a sufficient number of Members to sit on these Committees. Hon. Members should realise that the House was not merely a pleasant club, but the workshop of the nation. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman opposite that he was mistaken in supposing that there would be any difficulty in getting Members to act. Hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to have the impression that Government measures would have precedence in the Grand Committees. That was not his view. He imagined that the Bills would come on for consideration in the order in which they were sent upstairs. On behalf of the Committee of Selection he welcomed the proposal to have four Grand Committees. In the House, in the smoking-room, and in the dining-room, he was often approached by Members clamouring for work. Sometimes they said they were new Members and had not been put on a Committee yet There were 270 Members in the House to whom the Committee of Selection had not been able to give any work at all.

*MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said he spoke on this question entirely irrespective of Party politics, for on whichever side of the House he had sat he had always taken exactly the same attitude as to the kind of work which should be referred to Grand Committees. While he was anxious to support any scheme which would expedite and improve the legislative work of the House, he believed the proposals now made by the Government would not have that effect. He would, therefore, oppose them as he did when they were before the Procedure Committee. The Prime Minister had said that the proposal was an experimental measure. If the right hon. Gentleman insisted on carrying his Resolution, he hoped it would only be as a Sessional Order. They had had from the right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division a very interesting history of the manner in which these proposals had arisen; and he was somewhat surprised at the conclusion at which that right hon. Gentleman had arrived. Quoting the Report of the Committee which sat on procedure in 1886, the right hon. Gentleman had used extremely eulogistic language as to the great and important authority which lay behind that Report; but he should have added that there were vital differences between what was now suggested and that which was presented in the Report of 1886. In that Report four Committees were to be set up, not mere microcosms of the House of Commons, but the whole House was to be divided into four Committees, which naturally carried with it the corollary that those Committees were not to sit during the ordinary time at which the House itself sat, and that the hon. Members who constituted those Committees should be relieved of sitting on Private Bill Committees. It must be remembered, however, that within two years of presenting that Report the right hon. Gentleman came forward with a proposition, which was accepted by the House, reverting to the original precedent of 1882, on which they had been acting ever since. But they had had a later pronouncement on the question of Grand Committees. In 1905 the Chairmen's Panels, including the late Sir James Fergusson, whose loss they all deplored, formally considered the position of the House with regard to Bills sent to Grand Committees, and they unanimously found that it was not desirable to refer to them Bills which aroused strong Party feeling or dealt with matters of high controversy. And who was the Gentleman who presented that Report? It was the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Nottinghamshire.

MR. ELLIS thought that the hon. Gentleman should go on to refer to the next paragraph in the Report of that Committee.

*MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he was bound to admit that in the next paragraph the Report went on to say that if the Standing Committees had to deal with Bills of the nature described, then the power of closure should be given to the Chairmen. At the time he himself accepted the power of closure somewhat reluctantly, although in a better form than that described by the Prime Minister. He had had a certain amount of experience during the nine sessions in which he had acted on the Chairmen's Panel, and in the whole of that time he had never used, nor desired to use, the power of the closure. Therefore, he could not say that it would enable them to get very much further with their business. He thought that the right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division did not rely on the power of the closure very much, because in 1902 he stated that he was an anti-closure man and that the use of the closure marked the incapacity of those who advocated its employment. He thought that the extremely good work which had been done by Grand Committees was often forgotten, but if the list of that work was looked at it would be found that it was a particular class of work. During the discussion of last year it was always assumed that great measures on which the life of a Government depended should be reserved for the consideration of the Whole House, and he thought that the House ought to have a clear and distinct statement on that point. If large measures of that kind were to be reserved for the consideration of the whole House, he did not think there would be any saving of time. On the other hand, while Grand Committees were unsuitable for dealing with large measures, because they did not represent the true feeling of the House, they were too large for dealing with Departmental Bills or small Bills relating to a single point. They often had on the Order Paper of the House, later in the session, a large number of Departmental Bills, usually small measures in themselves, but for which time could not be found owing to the attention of the House being centred on one great subject. If those Bills were sent to Grand Committees, as in the case of the Isle of Man Customs Bill, the Committee of Selection would have to appoint fifteen members, and the Chairman would have to sit in the Grand Committee room upstairs in the hope that a quorum would attend. If they did come the matter would be settled in two minutes, but if a quorum did not turn up, the time of those who did put in an appearance would be wasted. He feared the same kind of thing might happen in regard to every class of Bill, whether large or small, controversial or uncontroversial. To send all classes of Bills to the same Committee showed that the Government had not considered the matter deeply, and the proposal which he intended to bring forward later, that the Bills should be sifted out by a representative Committee, would, he thought, be better than the proposal which the Government brought forward. They should have some better assurance that this scheme did represent the final consideration of how the Government meant to proceed with measures of legislation. They were told that at present they had the opportunity of discussing matters on the Report stage, but they could not forget that last year the guillotine was applied to the Report stage of a Government Bill before the measure had ever been considered by the House. If that was so, how could they be sure that they would have that opportunity of free discussion on Report which would give every Member an opportunity of expressing his opinion? There was one class of Bill left out from the operation of the Resolution. Finance Bills were excluded; but there were other Bills which were practically money Bills, which were not to be considered by the House in Committee. What did that mean? We had two Houses of Parliament, and it meant that certain Bills, if they were not considered in that House, could also not be considered in another place. Many Bills would go to the Grand Committees which could not be considered in the other House, because they were money Bills, and the only opportunity for their consideration would be in the Grand Committee. These considerations ought to be taken into account before they proceeded to deal with the proposal before the House. It was said that it would facilitate legislation and stimulate Members to increased exertions. The suggestion that hon. Members wanted stimulating at that early stage of the new Parliament was a peculiar one, and he believed that the attendance in the House showed that there was not great keenness on the part of hon. Members in regard to the work of the House, especially in matters which concerned the Army and Navy. In fact, in Committee of the Whole House on an important measure, far greater interest was shown than at other times. The Prime Minister had suggested that they would get rid of the discussion of the details of measures of legislation in the House, and make the time of the sitting of the House a comparatively easy matter—that they would not have so much to do, and would go to bed earlier than they did at present. That was a rather remarkable proposition when they remembered that legislation was to be conducted during hours which were, to a large extent, outside the hours in which the House sat, namely, between eleven and four; and yet that plea was put forward by a Government which said only last year that it was impossible for that House to deal with its legislative work at two o'clock, and it was necessary to meet later at a quarter to three, because it was not able to get Members to attend at the earlier hour. What were the proposals of the Government with regard to unofficial private Members' Bills. There were only fourteen or fifteen Fridays on which private Members could pass the Second Reading of Bills; then under this Rule there was a special Grand Committee to consider them, and at the end there were only two Fridays with ten hours of Parliamentary time to take the later stages. Was not that a waste of time and an unfair burden? Those Bills were very often drafted by private draughtsmen, and, not having had the assistance of a Minister in the Grand Committee, they must consider in minute detail those Bills on the Report stage. He confessed that he did not think such a course was fair to private Members, or that they would gain very much by the process. As to the proposed Scottish Committee, he wished to know whether it was intended that while Scottish Members were to sit on that Grand Committee they were also to sit on other Committees. They ought to know the full intentions of the Government on this matter, because, as it at present appeared, the Scottish Members would be able to produce a large amount of definite expert opinion in reference to each Bill, while the fifteen English Members would practically be a permanent body, who would sit for the whole session, before whom the Scottish Members would plead their case, on either side, and upon whom the people interested in the measure would be dependent. Such a system was an absolute reversal of the intentions of Parliament in establishing the Grand Committee system, and as the House gradually resolved itself more and more into groups, and it became increasingly difficult to make any Grand Committee of sixty-nine Members or upwards truly representative to consider particular legislation, so would it be much more difficult to select fifteen Members of a thoroughly representative character. It would be very difficult to make a Grand Committee, as at present constituted, really representative of the House, and therefore their opinion would lose its effect, and would not have the amount of influence necessary to ensure that the legislation concerned should be carried out without further debate in the House. For himself he could not accept most of the suggestions put forward; he thought the Government had taken the wrong direction. He did not think the Committee stage should be left to the sole discretion of the Government of the day. It was not desirable to send Bills of a large character to Grand Committees, and he did not believe that the Government would increase the efficiency of the House by introducing the complications of closure which they proposed. He did not think the scheme would have the effect they desired, and he was sorry the Government had thought fit to bring it forward.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said he wished to thank the right hon. Gentleman, on behalf of all Scottish Members, for including the Scottish Committee in his scheme. The reasons given for the opposition to the scheme were entirely mistaken reasons. Objection was taken on the ground that it was part of a national scheme. Hon. Gentlemen opposite described it as separation, and apparently looked upon it as an instalment of Home Rule, and objected to it on that principle. He protested against any such view being taken. It was perfectly true that some Scotsmen held certain national views, and many believed that Scottish business would be better done if it was managed by some local body instead of by the Imperial Parliament. But that was not the question. The majority of Scottish Members were willing to accept the fifteen Englishmen on the Committee. He approached the proposal as a part of a general scheme to ease the present congestion of Parliament. It was not a national question. But if Grand Committees were to be set up there must be some classification of the business. There was already the classification of Bills on law and on trade, but there was one body of work that came before the House which was entirely distinct and that was Scottish work. Not only was it a distinct class, but it was more neglected than any other work in the House. Because each question in Scotland had to be dealt with by a separate Bill, and Scotland being a small nationality with a small population, she had no chance with English Bills treating with the same subjects. Those were dealt with, but the Scottish Bills set aside. When a Scottish Bill came before the House who sat and listened to it? Scotsmen exclusively. He was particularly sorry for the little body of fifteen English martyrs who were to sit on this Scottish Committee. The right hon. Gentleman said there would be no English Committee, but that was not so. There were to be four Committees altogether, and assuming that two were sitting at the same time, all the Scottish Members would be on the Scottish Committee, and would not in any way contaminate the other Committee, which would consist solely of English and Irish Members, and the latter would not be more than fifteen, which would only correspond with the number of Englishmen on the Scottish Committee. The scheme was part of a scheme of devolution of the business of the House, and practical Scotsmen regarded it with favour because it would help both England and Scotland.

*MR. JOWETT (Bradford, W.) supported the proposal of the Prime Minister. The idea of the details of a Bill being considered by a Committee of 670 Members was too ridiculous for words. That was not only his view, but also the view of a distinguished official of the House. Sir Courtenay Ilbert said before the Committee on Procedure he did not think that any one defended the existing system under which Bills were passed through Committee of the Whole House; that no reasonable person would sit down and deliberately suggest such a method of procedure. No words could be a stronger condemnation of the present system, and many Members of the House would approve of the opinion of Sir Courtenay Ilbert. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford had rather thrown cold water on the proposals of the Government, and he could quite understand his taking every opportunity to show the absolute impossibility of governing the whole of the three Kingdoms from that House. But that was no reason why the best should not be done to make the House of Commons a working institution. No man could pretend that as at present constituted it was a working Assembly, so far as private Members were concerned. He submitted that the House had a somewhat demoralising effect on private

Members, who were not allowed to do the business for which they were sent there. Month after month Members willing and anxious to take part in public business, and sit on Committees, were reduced to sitting in the House listening to discussions conducted largely by right hon. Gentlemen on the two front benches, and those who sat in the part from which he was speaking were often not able even to hear. He did not think it was fair not to allow private Members to do what they were sent to Parliament to do. He certainly welcomed the prospect of being able to take some part in the business of that House. It seemed to him that the Rules of Procedure under which they suffered would not have been tolerated so long if they had not suited the convenience of the legal fraternity. If one took up the Amendment Paper in regard to any Bill one saw that the procedure of the House was on lines that favoured the methods of legal Members. For instance, the Order Paper of that day containing Amendments to the Prime Minister's proposal, included the following—

> "Line 1, after the first 'a' insert 'Government;'"

> "Leave out 'the' to 'commit,' in line 9, and insert 'Business Committee may;'"

and so on. It was like a Chinese puzzle. There was neither sense nor reason in it. It was not necessary, and he did not think any other public body would tolerate it. Things should be put plainly so that a plain man could understand them, instead of his having to spend his whole time in solving such word puzzles. He remembered that on one clause of the Education Bill, in order to effect a change in it, thirteen separate Amendments were put down on the Paper. On other occasions private Members were expected to follow intelligently Amendments that were not in print. They were read from the Table, and most Members had no opportunity of knowing what their terms meant. That might be called business, but he did not think it was, nor did other Members who were responsible for it. Lawyers were present to represent their constituencies in the ordinary way, and these matters of drafting should be dealt with by experts who were appointed for the purpose and could offer their advice without prejudice and with the confidence of everybody. He not only agreed with the Prime Minister in his making four instead of two Standing Committees, but he would go a step further and suggest that in connection with every one of those Committees there should be an expert draughtsman in order to render Members independent of the lawyers. He would go even further than that — as would other Members, in increasing numbers—and submit that they should take part not only in the legislative, but also in the executive, part of the work of the House. It was surely a scandal that private Members should have no share in executive business. At present they had simply power to ask a Question, which might or might not be answered, or to make a speech, if by chance they caught the Speaker's or the Chairman's eye. It seemed to him that the various Government Departments had grown so big that Members representing all branches and sections of the House should be associated with them. That was a view which would grow as time went on, and as they got an increased number of adherents to the Committee system they would find the system extended to the executive part of the work. They welcomed the proposals of the Government, because in all probability they would give Members a better opportunity for taking part in the business they were sent to do. For his part he thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the step he was taking, which, in his opinion, was much needed in the interestsof public business, as well as in the interest of private Members.

*MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) said that he would be sorry to stand for a moment in the way of any well-considered plan to make the Parliamentary wheels run more smoothly, but he thought it was a little unfortunate that they could not consider the procedure on Bills as a whole, and not merely the procedure after they had passed the Second Reading. There were two methods of saving time—either to revise the whole procedure, or to revise a small part of it, as they were doing now. If they adopted the former and more desirable method, a great deal of time could be saved without the necessity of enlarging the system of Grand Committees. He suggested that the first reading stage of a Bill should be purely formal, both for private and Government Bills. When the Bill was ordered to be printed an exposition of its nature and of its principles should be furnished with it, as was done in many foreign legislatures. That would save the whole of the proceedings on the First Reading. The proposition before them now was that after the Second Reading the Bill should go to Grand Committee, but that would not necessarily save time, because Members would turn the Report stage into the former Committee stage when the Bill came downstairs. He would remind the House that when the Education (Provision of Meals) Bill came from the Standing Committee, page after page of Amendments were put down on the Report stage.

LORD ROBERT CECIL (Marylebone, E.) reminded the hon. Member that that Bill was sent to a Select Committee and then came to the House. It did not go to Grand Committee at all.

*MR. CHIOZZA MONEY said that if the reference had been to a Grand Committee they might still have had a discussion on the Report stage similar to the discussion in Committee. He was very much interested in the Census of Production Bill, which dealt with a subject that he had studied for many years, and he had a Motion on the Paper with regard to it, which he was unfortunately prevented from moving. The Bill was sent to a Committee upstairs, on which he did not serve, not having been invited to do so. The result was that the Report stage was the first time he encountered the Bill in the House, and then he and many other Members around him were afraid to make speeches lest they endangered the passage of a measure in which they were deeply interested. If that was called reform, he could not agree with the application of the word. Then there was danger in connection with the class of Member seeking to serve on the Committees. The word "faddists" had been used, but in regard to these Committees he would suggest that there was great danger of special interests seeking to be represented upon them. If it was found that on some Committee a certain interest would be attacked Members would be found endeavouring to get themselves placed on that Committee in order to make their contentions heard in a way that could not be achieved in the House itself; because the value of a Member's vote was only one in 670 in the House, whereas it was one in eighty in Committee. Therefore, they would get interests over-represented upon the Committees. His hon. friend who had just sat down had pleaded for more work for private Members, and he joined hands with him in making that plea, but what did the new proposals do for the useful men of the House who had to earn their livings? The House met at a quarter to three and sat till eleven, and often later. Supposing a Committee sat from eleven o'clock in the morning until prayer time, and then the Members who composed it went on in the House until eleven o'clock at night, and frequently until the next morning: was it possible to give proper time and attention to business carried on in that way? Was it proposed to do important work in Committee, and to occupy the time between three o'clock and eleven o'clock on less important matters in the House? It seemed to him that the private Member would find himself in the dilemma of having either to give his time in the morning or in the afternoon. Many Members were most earnestly desirous of doing useful work, but they would find themselves utterly unable to contend with Parliamentary duties lasting twelve or fifteen hours a day. He had protested against twelve or fifteen hours a day for 'busmen, and he was therefore entitled to protest against these hours. Then there was the semi-secret character of the Committees to consider. Members in Committees were not reported officially as in the House, and if these proposals were adopted, he submitted that there should be an official record of the proceedings upstairs; otherwise, those proceedings would tend to become secret, and that would not be at all in the public interest. He submitted that it would be better if the Government came forward with a proposal relating to the whole of the procedure of the House on the various stages. He earnestly asked the House to consider whether, after the First and Second Reading stages, some business Committee with Mr. Speaker as Chairman, could not allot time, as suggested by the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the remaining stages of Bills according to their importance. He asked them to consider whether they would not gain more time, with a larger measure of efficiency, in that way than by the proposals of the Prime Minister, and at the same time enable every Member to take a proper interest in the affairs of the House and of Committees of the House.

LORD ROBERT CECIL said he did not admire in every respect the procedure of the House. He quite admitted that there were defects; but he could not agree with the hon. and learned Member for Waterford that the House wholly failed to discharge its duties. It seemed to him that many of those duties were discharged well enough. But in considering the subject in a general way it was necessary to remember that the House had very divergent classes of duties to perform. It was a great mistake to suppose that the House was solely a legislative machine. That seemed to him to be a fundamental error. The House, in the first place, had administrative and even judicial duties, and it discharged them extremely badly. If the Government had come forward with proposals for improving the machinery of Private Bill procedure, he agreed that much might have been said for very drastic changes in that respect. The mode in which the House dealt with Private Bills was little better than a scandal. The procedure was constantly used by hon. Members who desired to put forward some political proposal, or some sectional or even personal desire; it was used as a means of putting undue and illegitimate pressure on the promoters of such Bills; and if any means could be devised for turning the business connected with Private Bills into a really judicial proceeding, it would be a great improvement. But that was not the proposal before the House. The hon. Member below the gangway seemed to think there should be something like the Committees, he presumed, appointed by the National Convention at the time of the French Revolution, which had the supervision of the administration of the country. He could not conceive any proposal with less to recommend it. It certainly would not conduce to the rapid administration of anything. His own experience of a Committee was that it was always a great deal worse than its best member and very often worse than its worst member, for administrative purposes. He would rather trust to a single man for administrative purposes. subject to impeachment or dismissal from his office if he made a mistake, than he would trust the most able committee ever constituted. But when they passed from the administrative duties of the House and came to its legislative duties, a great distinction must be made. There were the deliberative duties of the House and there were the actual legislative duties. He admired mainly, if he might respectfully say so, the deliberative faculties of the House. He thought it was by far the best place in the country for discussing and examining any proposal, whether in the form of a Bill or any other form—he was inclined to say the best in the world. But let them be careful to remember that there was not that sharp distinction between the principles and details of a measure which might be thought. They could not discuss the principle of a measure without also discussing the way in which that principle was to be carried out, and yet it was the way in which a measure was to be carried out that really mattered. Let them take almost all the great proposals that were before the House last session. On the broad principles of a great number of them all Members of the House were more or less agreed. If they were to write down the theses of what was desired in reference to the Land Tenure Bill or the Education Bill of last year, they would find a very general agreement. But when it came to details, how general principles should be carried out, they would find that a real difference of opinion commonly existed. It was, therefore, quite a delusion to suppose that they could divide sharply the discussion that took place on the Second Reading of a Bill and the discussion in Committee. It was quite true that they might have discussions on unimportant matters in Committee, but many of the most important and most valuable discussions were those which took place on particular aspects of a question in Committee, or when a particular set of words were put before the House, to be accepted as part of the legislation of the country. That was the time when in his judgment the House had real power of dealing with a subject, and when the deliberations of the House were most valuable. When they came to the actual legislative work of the country, he agreed that it was very bad. He meant by legislation the actual construction of Acts of Parliament, which he agreed must be bad in any large Committee, but it was bad not only because of the genius of the House, but much more because of the controversial character of the measures submitted to it. The real truth was that when they had a controversial measure, even if they had only eighty Members discussing it, they would have a vast number of different opinions, many ill-digested, and it would be impossible to get the necessary real and concentrated attention on matters of drafting and so on. That difficulty would be just the same in a Grand Committee of seventy or eighty members as it was in Committee of the Whole House. They would not find substantial difference in the actual legislative work of the House. Therefore, in his judgment, the proposal of the Government would destroy the best part of the work of the House, namely, the deliberative part when the attention of the House was concentrated on definite proposals. A good deal had been said about the difficulty of manning the various Committees. He shared to the full the apprehensions which had been expressed on that point. He did not think it would be in the least possible for members of the Government to attend the Committees in such a way as really to supervise the work; and their experience of the Report stage of the Land Tenure Bill, one of the worst drafted measures that ever passed the House, did not encourage the belief that a really controversial measure could be dealt with adequately and properly by a system of Grand Committees, and it certainly discouraged the House from thinking that, even with respect to two Grand Committees, the Government were at present able to give sufficient attention and guidance to their work to ensure that it should be satisfactory to the House when it came downstairs.

And, it being a quarter past Eight of the clock, further proceeding was postponed without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 4.

COMMITMENTS TO PRISON FOR DEBT.

*Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) rose to call attention to the large and constantly increasing number of commitments to prison for debt by orders of County Courts; and to move, "That the present powers of committing to prison for non-payment of a debt ought to be restricted." He said that the number of persons committed to prison for non-payment of debt, by order of the County Courts, had steadily increased within recent years. The figures were in 1899, 7,867; in 1900, 7,899; in 1901, 8,494; in 1902, 9,530; in 1903, 10,544; and in 1904, 11,096. There had thus been a steadily progressive increase during those years, the increase in 1904 being 50 per cent. on the number in 1899. Apparently the law was put in operation in a very different way in different parts of the country, or, in other words, a very different standard of the conditions which justified imprisonment seemed to be adopted by different Judges. At Leicester the number of plaints in 1904 was 15,000 and seventy-seven persons were imprisoned, and at Brighton there were 9,000 plaints and thirty-nine commitments. On the other hand, at Rotherham there were 13,000 plaints and 408 commitments, and at Hull there were 14,000 plaints and 322 commitments. There was a similar disparity between one circuit and another. For instance, in the Monmouth Circuit there were 25,000 plaints and only twenty-one commitments, whereas in the Suffolk Circuit there were 16,000 plaints and 224 commitments. In some districts one defendant in every 1,200 was imprisoned, while in other districts the proportion was one in sixty. Who mainly benefited by the present system of imprisonment for debt? His answer was tallymen, money-lenders, and that class of sharks to whom certain tradesmen sold their debts at about a shilling in the £. He had heard of a case in which a bookhawker gave credit for two guineas for a family Bible to a servant girl sixteen years of age. He did not wish the House to understand that the servant girl was sent to prison. When a working man's wife was induced to buy jewellery or trinkets on credit she concealed from her husband what she had done, and when the county court notice was delivered she was able to conceal it also. In some instances it might actually happen that the first knowledge the husband had that there was any debt was when he was arrested. Who were the victims of the system? In the main this was a system of collecting debts from the wage-earning classes, although tradesmen were affected to a certain extent. No doubt he would be told that before an order of commitment was made the Judge gave the debtor a chance of paying by instalments. That was perfectly true, but what a county court Judge did was to ask what a man's wages were, and then to estimate what amount he could spare out of his wages. It was perfectly obvious that that was a very unsatisfactory system, and that much oppression might unwittingly be committed under it. The treatment in prison of civil debtors under the present rules did not substantially differ from the treatment of criminals. He had heard a story of two prisoners who were exchanging confidences. One said to the other, "They gave me fourteen days for stealing a duck," and the other replied, "Oh! I got forty days for not paying for one." The present system was grossly unequal as between the man who owed a large sum and the man who owed a small sum. The former could make himself bankrupt and so rid himself of all his liabilities, but the man who owed a small sum could not do that. He believed he was right in saying that there were few civilised countries, if any, in which such a system prevailed. He was told that it did not prevail in Scotland, and he believed he was correct in stating that it did not prevail in the United States, France, or Germany. The present law and practice in this country encouraged the pernicious system of credit and the growth of firms whose main business it was to tempt poor people to borrow money at ruinous rates of interest, or to buy articles which they did not want, and which they certainly could not afford to purchase. His own inclination was to advocate the abolition of imprisonment for debt altogether, but it might be that public opinion in this country was not yet ripe for that drastic reform. He was therefore anxious that the gravest evils should be got rid of, and, as he desired to carry along with him those who were not willing to go the whole way, his Resolution suggested that there were cases in which the present powers might be continued. They might be retained for debts incurred by fraud and dishonesty and for wilful and malicious injuries to property. The Attorney-General had stated in reply to a question that the Lord Chancellor had given the subject most sympathetic consideration. In answer to a supplementary question which he had put, the Attorney-General said he quite agreed that the evil was great and that some change was necessary. That was in November last, but when the Lord Chancellor introduced a Bill dealing with County Courts he very much regretted to find that that Bill did not include any provision with regard to the question with which he was concerned that night. It was, however, evident that the Lord Chancellor was strongly in favour of dealing with the question, and Lord Ashbourne, Viscount Cross, and Lord James of Hereford also strongly advocated that the Bill should include some provision dealing with imprisonment for debt. He hoped it was not too late to induce the Government to deal with the question in the present Bill, and so bring about a valuable social reform which would be approved of by everyone except that class of firms who encouraged people to incur debts and buy goods which they really did not want, knowing that they had the screw of imprisonment by the power of the County Court Judge behind them. He begged to move.

MR. MACLEAN (Bath), in seconding the Motion, expressed the hope that he would carry with him the hon. and learned Solicitor-General when he stated the principle that no man should be deprived of his liberty except for an offence against the State. He knew that a man in England was not imprisoned for non-payment of a debt, but for contempt of Court. Still the fact remained that the system existed of collecting debts by means of the threat of imprisonment. Imprisonment for non-payment of a debt no longer obtained in any other civilised country in the world. Allusion had been made to the practice in Scotland. About twenty-five years ago imprisonment for debt in that country was absolutely abolished, with the result that a far sounder system of credit had grown up. That was what they desired to effect in England. It had been suggested that some difficulties might arise when a strike occurred, and credit was given by small traders to the men on strike; but he thought that the Labour Members would be found to be more or less in favour of the Resolution proposed by his hon. and learned friend. The present system set up a very harmful factor in social life, there having gradually grown up a system of business frankly based on the power of a creditor to send a debtor to prison. That system enabled a certain class of traders to make huge profits out of poor people. Last session it was stated in answer to a Question put in the House that a communication had been made to Judge Rentoul by a firm of traders stating that they did not wish that he should imprison more than sixty of their debtors in the course of a year. He believed that if imprisonment for debt were absolutely abolished that spurious and injurious system of doing business would die out. No one desired to prevent in any way honest tradesmen from getting payment of their due and proper debts. No doubt occasional hardships might occur if a Bill prohibiting imprisonment for debt were passed, but he thought that the balance of advantage would lie with the abolition of the existing system. There was not the least doubt that certain County Courts rules were extremely difficult to work out, as he could testify from his own experience, and the County Courts were largely used by money lenders and the class of traders who imposed on stupid people by sales to them of sham jewellery.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the present powers of committing to Prison for non-payment of a Debt ought to be restricted."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) admitted that the question was an extremely difficult one, but he could not help thinking that the hon. and learned Member had not had that experience of County Courts recently which he used to have. The effect of the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member would be practically to do away with the present system of credit altogether. He would like to trace a not altogether imaginary case brought before a County Court. Mr. Jones borrowed from Mr. Smith a sum of £10 in October, 1905, for, as he said, the purpose of enabling him to finish a job he had in hand, promising to repay at Christmas time when the job was completed. Months passed and Smith was not paid, and at last, on January 1st, he decided to put in operation the process of the County Court. It took about a month after issuing process for the case to come on; more often in the London Courts it was six weeks before it could be heard, but the average time was a month. He therefore went and issued an ordinary summons for the recovery of the £10. It was returnable on February 1st, and when that date came he found that he was, say, 200 cases down the list. He was at the Court at ten o'clock, but the case did not come on before twelve. It was heard before the Registrar, and, the defendant announcing that it was defended it was put back till the afternoon. There were two or three heavy running-down cases, and the hearing of the case was adjourned till March 1st. Thus the defendant got another month by merely jumping up and saying that the case was defended. On March 1st, if plaintiff was lucky, he got his case heard, and he issued execution against the goods of the defendant. No return was made for a month—the bailiffs did not make a return under that period—and then at the end of that month he found that the landlord was in for rent or that the goods did not belong to the defendant, so that the proceedings were abortive. The creditor issued a judgment summons in order to obtain the money by instalments, and that was returnable on May 1st. Summonses were very rarely served by the officer of the Court, and when the creditor was told in June that it had not been served he asked for leave to serve it himself, and did so. The summons was returnable in July, and then he applied for an order for payment by instalments. The Judge heard what the debtor's means were, and with a matter of £10 the creditor would get an order of 5s. a month. In the meantime the Long Vacation came on and nothing happened until October. The defendant did not pay the 5s. a month, and the creditor applied for another judgment summons which he got on November 1st, but was told that it could not be served. He then applied for another judgment summons which he served and which was returnable on January 1st. Up to this time he had not got a penny from his debtor and had spent many in Court fees. The judgment summons came on, and the defendant, if he was wily, turned up and said he could not pay 5s. a month as he was out of work or had illness in his family and so on. The result was that the judge reduced the order to 2s. a month, and no committal order could be issued as long as the 2s. a month was paid. When one sum of 2s. was due the Clerk of the County Court advised the creditor not to go to the expense of a warrant for 2s., but to wait until two or three instalments were overdue. In the following May as the instalments had not been paid, he obtained a warrant for the payment of the 6s., and if the man paid the 6s. he even then did not go to prison for seven days. If, however, the man did not pay, he could be sent to gaol not for not paying, but for contempt of court. From the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite it would appear that the County Court was a great engine of oppression upon the debtor, but as he had shown, it took at least sixteen or seventeen months before a man could get 2s. or 3s. out of his debtor if the latter knew how to get out of it. Sometimes he pleaded poverty; sometimes he was wise enough to stop away. That was the state of the case as it stood at the present time. He was not quite clear whether the hon. Member for Bethnal Green stated the number of committal orders or the actual number of persons who went to prison. [Mr. PICKERSGILL: The actual number who went to prison.] He quite admitted that in different County Courts the procedure entirely differed, and it was amusing to see when a Judge first came, if he was at all severe, how old plaints were raked up for the purpose of putting this law in force. Nobody knew better than the Registrar and the Judge of the County Court exactly the kind of debt which it was sought to recover, and the tallymen and credit drapers, simply to save their own time, put all their cases together and had twenty or thirty at a time. That class of trader knew very well that the very worst character they could get was a character for being severe and pressing for orders for committal. The Judge knew all the tallymen in his Court, and they were treated more severely than the ordinary tradesmen. But he would not like the House to get the idea that the County Court was entirely used by the tallyman and credit draper and by nobody else. He could assure the House that it was the ordinary trader who used the County Court, although he did not like to do so, as the intricacy of the forms and practice required skilled advice and it was not a profitable business for solicitors. Some very large firms had County Court clerks for the purpose of dealing with their County Court work. The County Courts were of very great use to persons engaged in trade and commerce, and he hoped the House would pause before it passed a Resolution to the effect proposed. A very great deal more evidence ought to be adduced before a system was abolished which had worked very well in the hands of the Judges who administered it. By long practice they could see whether a man was telling stories or was able to pay or not, and he thought there were few cases of hardship, and no great number of miscarriages of justice. He believed in 80 per cent. of the committal orders the sums were paid before they were actually enforced.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) said the hon. Member had given them some idea of the hardships of the existing system upon the creditor, who had all sorts of trouble and inconvenience for sixteen months to get 2s. a month out of a debtor. He would have thought that that was a condemnation of the existing system. In 1869 Parliament intended to abolish imprisonment for debt, but it left one door open. Debtors were no longer imprisoned for debt, but for failing to comply with the order of the Court. Such an order was not made unless there was some proof that the debtor either had, or had had since the judgment was made, means of satisfying the judgment. In form that rule was applicable to all classes. In effect it operated against the poorer industrial class alone. In the case of a middle-class debtor, the creditor proceeded against the goods of the debtor, and if an execution did not satisfy the claim no further proceedings were taken as a rule. But in the case of a working man debtor, the creditor did not look to the goods. The only substantial asset of such a debtor was his wages. They were brought under the law by an order for instalments, and if the instalments were not paid the debtor was sent to prison. Every one would agree that that was a heavy penalty to pay, seeing that it fell almost exclusively on those who possessed the smallest means. But the matter did not lie absolutely between a creditor and a debtor, or between a body of creditors and a large number of debtors. It was a matter which touched in many aspects the interests of the community at large. The existence of this remedy had created competition among tradesmen for credit business. That credit business resulted in large losses or in that kind of tedious, costly, and unsatisfactory litigation of which they had heard. Those losses must be met by putting them on to the price of the goods generally, so that the community as a whole as well as the individual debtor paid more for their goods owing to the existence of this costly and mischievous habit. There was also a habit among certain tradesmen of keeping a sort of "hanging gale" over customers; they kept their custom under control by allowing an unpaid sum for goods supplied to stand over. That was a vicious system of trading, but how could it be best dealt with? It had been said that if they removed imprisonment for debt they would destroy credit. To some extent that would be true, but what other remedies were available? One remedy was the seizure of the debtor's goods, and another remedy worthy of consideration was the system which prevailed in Scotland, where there was no imprisonment for debt. It was the remedy of the attachment of wages. The system was tried in England, but it had been abolished. To what extent the arrestment of wages prevailed in Scotland he was not prepared to say until further information was available, and further information was certainly desirable before they attempted to frame legislation dealing with the matter. One point had been touched on very lightly, and that was that there were many kinds of debts, debts in which no voluntary credit had been given by the creditor, as in the cases of alimony and bastardy. It would be very hard in such cases to deprive the creditor of any remedy, and therefore, cases of that kind they were obliged to consider very carefully in framing any legislation. All the considerations pointed to a little further inquiry before an attempt was made to frame any Bill upon the subject, and he suggested that possibly a Select Committee would be the best way of carrying out an inquiry. The Government regarded the object in view sympathetically.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That the present powers of committing to prison for non-payment of a debt ought to be restricted."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

RATING (LONDON).

Mr. CROCKS (Woolwich) rose to call attention to the incidence of rating in London, and to move, "That, in the opinion of this House, the present inequality of the rates raised in the different parishes in London requires the early consideration of Parliament." He said he realised at the outset that in proposing this Resolution he would be an excellent target for a good many Members. He would, however, try to avoid the temptation to refer to the allegations which had been made against himself in regard to what had taken place at Poplar. He might say, however, in regard to the allegation that at Poplar they had fed the poor at other people's expense, that the Poplar Guardians could not feed them at the expense of the poor because they had not the money. But there was a vast difference between the charges made against his Board and those levelled at others outside the boundaries of London. Whatever expense Poplar incurred was incurred for the poor and not for the aggrandisement of the Board. In the Report to the President of the Local Government Board on the Poplar Union there was a paragraph which said—

> "The general policy of the guardians also includes a strong view as to the equalisation of rates in the Metropolis. Mr. Crooks and Mr. Lansbury claim, as a matter of justice, that the whole rates of London should pay for the whole of London pauperism, and they frankly accepted Mr. Arthur Balfour's dictum that any further extension of the principle of equalisation of the rates must be accompanied by what he termed 'a curtailment of local autonomy.' In fact the evidence suggests that in later years the guardians deliberately increased their expenditure with a view of making it evident that additional contributions from the rates of the whole Metropolis were an absolute necessity for the Poplar District."

The inquiry by the Local Government Board lasted over twenty days and there was a protracted audit lasting over four months, and notwithstanding that, no single instance was proved that the guardians had broken a law or helped any poor people in the Poplar Union that they had no right to help. The Report wound up with the following remarkable sentence—

> "The whole Metropolis now practically pays for the maintenance of the indoor poor of London, and it would appear to be only equitable that the indoor administration of the Metropolitan Unions should be uniform."

He thought that showed a want of knowledge of the facts on the part of the man who made that Report. It was perfectly true that under the Local Government Act of 1888, which created the London County Council, arrangements were made for certain indoor grants to the various unions of London. At Poplar they had about 360 odd persons above the certified number, all of whom had to be paid out of the local rates. He agreed that there should be a reduction where children were kept in the house, but the fact remained that they had that number over their certified number and had to lose in proportion. Poplar was not the only union which suffered in that way, as the following quotation would show—

> "The Stepney Union affords a good example of the injustice that is being wrought by the grant not being brought up to date. The average daily number of indoor poor maintained at the cost of this union for five years to March, 1888, as certified by the Local Government Board, was 1,021. The approximate daily number for the five years ending 1906 was 1,671, a daily increase of 650 persons since 1888. Taking 1,671 as representing the present daily numbers, the grant of £6,211, payable to this union in respect of indoor poor, fixed in 1888 at 4d. per day, now amounts to 2·44d. per day. If the grant were now 4d. per day, as in 1888, the total amount to be raised in London would probably be £442,065, out of which amount the Stepney Union would be called upon to contribute, according to its rateable value, £3,368, and would be entitled to receive in respect of its daily number of indoor poor (computed at 1,671) a sum of £10,165, a net annual gain of £6,797, instead of £3,721 gained on the basis arrived at in 1888."

That disposed of the argument that London bore the whole cost. The figures for London had been proved over and over again. The creation of the borough councils had only accentuated the position, and had created even to a greater extent than existed before cities of the rich and cities of the poor. Although they had been given mayors and corporations they still remained poor. Upon this subject he would quote to the House the Return he put in before the inquiry—

> "In considering the burden of local rates it is undesirable to take the figures for a single year. My Return, which has been prepared by the statistical officer of the London County Council, showing the comparative position of the metropolitan boroughs and poor law areas in respect of rates for the county and local purposes, based on the average for the four years ended 31st March, 1905, sets out very clearly the inequalities of local burdens. This Return shows that the total rates range from 9s. 8d. in Poplar to 6s. 4d. in the City of London, the average being 7s. 0·5d., and the Guardians' rates range from 2s. 6·4d. in Poplar to 2·8d. in Westminster, the average being 9·1d. The produce of the 1d. rate ranges from £819 in St. George's-in-the-East to £19,928 in the City of London, Poplar being £3,033. The ratio of indoor and outdoor pauperism to population based on the mean number of

paupers on 1st January and 1st July ranges as follows :—

> "Indoor from 52 per 10,000 in Hampstead to 704 per 10,000 in the Strand Union, average 155, Poplar, 200.
>
> "Outdoor from nine in Whitechapel to 295 in Bermondsey per 10,000, average 95, Poplar, 233.
>
> "It is pointed out that if the ratio of pauperism were the same in each area and the expenditure were the same in proportion, the Guardians' rate must still necessarily differ inversely as the assessable value per head.
>
> "The Return further shows that if the assessable value of Poplar instead of being £4·8 were the same as the average for the whole county the local rates would have been 2s. 6d. in the £ instead of 4s. 7d. If the assessable value per head was the same as the Strand Union the rate would be 4d., Marylebone, 1s. 8d., and Kensington, 1s. 9d."

The most remarkable thing about all this was that when the nation was in trouble or danger, of course they were all one; there was no distinction, and they talked about "Duke's son and cook's son;" but in time of peace the nation said to them "Keep yourselves and don't worry; if you are poor, God help you, for we cannot." But, after all, totals counted for something, and he asserted that notwithstanding their poverty, it was clean, honest poverty which they had tried to deal with in Poplar. Endeavouring to deal with their own poor when they could not afford it was one of the things for which he had been denounced. He would like to quote some figures from the *Westminster Gazette* showing the expenditure per head of population in four Metropolitan Boroughs. In Holborn it was £6 4s.; Westminster, £10 18s; Marylebone, £4 12s.; and Poplar, £2 18s. He admitted that a 12s. rate was appalling, but he did not agree with the argument that they had driven any trade away from the Poplar district. According to some of the statements which had been made Poplar must be a howling wilderness. Of course it might be convenient for London to congregate its poor workers in certain parts, but it was inevitable that in those districts breakdown in health and accidents to life and limb should be more frequent. People did not like to live in Poplar, because it had an evil reputation; it was smoky and dirty, and there were many poor people who came and knocked at their doors. It might be convenient, but it was not right that London should shirk its responsibilities in this matter. One of the objections raised was that they could not claim equalisation of rates until they had equalisation in the cost of administration. In the Poplar Union the cost of administration for officers was 2s. 10d. per pound of Poor Law expenditure as against 3s. 8d. elsewhere. A penny rate in Poplar realised £3,033, whilst in Kensington it produced nearly £9,000. If Poplar had the assessment of Marylebone, the rate would be 5s. 4d. in the pound, and if Marylebone had to raise the money it required on the Poplar assessment its rates would be 15s. in the pound. It was not right to allow the poor to keep the poor who really belonged to the whole of London. He begged to move.

*MR. DICKINSON (St. Pancras, N.) seconded the Resolution, although he regretted that it had not been moved in its original form. It was advisable that the House should devote a little attention to the question of the rates of London. The London rating problem had often been brought up, but it had never been dealt with in a scientific manner, and he hoped that before long the Government would deal with it from a comprehensive point of view. Parliament had always been imbued with the idea that London, like other towns, should be so administered that the poor and the rich should contribute equally, and that was the reason why the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund was established. It was an attempt made in 1869 to bring the total rateable value of London to the assistance of the poorer parts of the Metropolis. From that fund about £1,600,000 a year was distributed amongst the various boards of guardians. The fund was administered by the Local Government Board which was supposed to exercise control over it. A further step in this direction was taken in the Local Government Act of 1888 under which special provision was made for extending the common charge for Poor Law purposes by empowering the London County Council to collect a sum of money as part of the county rate and distribute it to the various boards of guardians. In 1894 the Equalisation of Rates Bill was passed at the instance of the London County Council, and it proceeded on a system which had nothing to commend it but its simplicity. A rate of sixpence in the pound was to be raised over the whole of London, and the proceeds, amounting to about £1,000,000, were to be distributed to the various boroughs and parishes in proportion to the population. The most populous parts were generally the poorest, and by distributing the money in that way they did to a certain extent relieve the poor parts at the expense of the richer; but it had no logical basis, and its effect was in many ways unsatisfactory. Notwithstanding all these attempts by Parliament to equalise the rates of London they were no more equal to-day than before the attempts were made, and the inequality instead of diminishing had gradually become greater. Six years ago the lowest rate in London was 5s. 9d. in the pound whilst the highest was 9s. 2d., or a difference of 3s. 5d. Last year the lowest rate was 6s. and the highest 11s. 10d., or a difference of 5s. 10d. Although they had transferred a great deal of the expenditure upon Poor Law and local government administration in London from the local to the central rates, at the same time they had not done away with the great disparity between the rates in different parts of London. The total expenditure raised by the rates of London was £15,000,000. Of this sum £8,000,000 was spent by bodies which had jurisdiction over the whole of London, the remaining £7,000,000 being spent by authorities having jurisdiction over only certain localities. But, of this £7,000,000 only £4,000,000 was raised locally, the other £3,000,000 being provided for out of rates collected over the whole of London. Thus nearly half of the money expended locally was raised centrally. This state of affairs was still more remarkable when examined in detail. The proportions, of course, varied in every district, and varied considerably when looked at from the point of view of whether they were devoted to Poor Law or to local government administration. Of the aggregate expenditure of the boards of guardians in London two-thirds was raised by a central rate, and of the expenditure of the borough councils one quarter was raised by a central rate. But in individual localities the proportions were even more striking. In the Whitechapel Union, of the amount of money spent by the guardians only one-fourth was raised by them, or in other words three-fourths of the money they expended was supplied by the metropolitan ratepayers. In the borough of Deptford one half of the money expended for the purposes of local administration was provided for the borough council by the central fund. Such a system was open to grave objections. In the first place it was a direct incentive to extravagance. Perhaps he would be allowed to support that argument by one or two more figures. If hon. Members compared the six years which he had already given as an illustration, 1901–2 to 1906–7, they would find that in many instances the expenditure of the local authorities had been increasing very rapidly. At the same time by reason of the fact that they could draw largely on central funds the obligation to raise the money from their own ratepayers was being reduced. In Bermondsey the increase of local expenditure on Poor Law was such that it would have necessitated an increase in the local rate of 5d. in the pound, but central assistance came to their aid to so great an extent that the local poor rate was hardly increased at all. The same thing could be said of Deptford, where the increase of expenditure would have meant more on the rates, but as a matter of fact the rate was reduced. He could give other instances, but they would only show the same result, namely, that at the present moment the tendency of the equalisation fund was to enable the local authorities to increase their expenditure without feeling that they had got to go to the ratepayers for an equivalent increase in the rates; and therefore he submitted that to that extent the system now in vogue was one which brought about a direct incentive to local extravagance. The chief fund which was placed at the disposal of the local authorities was the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, and that fund, although it was under the control of the Local Government Board, had shown a tendency to increase to an undue extent. In 1886 the amount received by the fund was £929,000, in 1905 it was £1,619,000, showing an increase of £690,000, or 74 per cent. in nineteen years. The number of paupers in London in that period had increased by only 36 per cent. It might be useful to glance at one or two items of expenditure which this central fund had had to meet. The money devoted out of that fund to the purpose of indoor paupers had increased by £92,000. The maintenance of pauper children had increased £63,000. The amount granted for insane paupers showed an increase of £177,000. The greatest increase of all was for salaries paid to officers. In that case the increase was £279,709, or 112 per cent. Therefore the powers of supervision exercised by the Local Government Board required further consideration. He had no doubt that the President of the Board was fully alive to the defects of the fund, and that he would give attention to the subject. He did not think the Board really supervised the expenditure of the fund. He believed every step was taken to see that the payments made were properly vouched and audited, but the discretion as to the expenditure was practically left to the boards of guardians. The supervision by the Local Government Board was by no means satisfactory, and any further enlargement of that fund or improvement of the system of equalisation would require a very much better system to check the expenditure of the local authorities. He believed the only solution for London rating was that there should be one rate over the whole of London, but that would necessitate a general system of check over the expenditure. It was not beyond the power of Parliament to devise some satisfactory method of controlling local expenditure; but it would involve a revision of the relationship between the central government of London and the local government of London, and therefore any question of the further equalisation of rates must be taken up by the House of Commons as part of a general system of London government.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, the present inequality of the rates raised in the different parishes in London requires the early consideration of Parliament."—(*Mr. Crooks.*)

Sir F. BANBURY (City of London) said that the speech of the hon. Gentleman who introduced the Resolution had reference to Poplar alone, whereas the Resolution, if it had any meaning at all, extended to the whole of London. The hon. Member for North St. Pancras had admitted that if they once established a single rate for the whole of London they must establish at the same time a proper and serious check over the expenditure of the whole of London, and that, of course, was the crux of the whole question. When once that was admitted there was really very little difference between the two sides of the House. It seemed to him that it would be almost impossible to establish that proper control. The hon. Gentleman had referred to the Common Poor Fund with the object of showing that it had worked well, and that, therefore, there was no reason why something of a similar nature should not be established. He gathered that the hon. Gentleman wished the control of the Local Government Board over that fund increased, and he agreed that that was a step which ought to be taken. In 1894 when the Equalisation of Rates Bill was before the House, Sir George Bartley and himself were the only Members on that side who opposed it, although their constituencies would have benefited most under the Bill. Their action caused considerable astonishment in their constituencies. At present he represented a constituency which would lose most by such a Bill, but he would still maintain the attitude which he took up in 1894. Inequality of rating must exist unless London were made into one area and the control given to one central body. He thought that was impossible, and that therefore any attempt to make the rating equal would be of no use. When he represented Peckham he discussed the subject with his constituents, and he told them that if they were to get money from other parts of London and have no control over expenditure they would not gain. The only result would be that instead of the expenditure being reduced it would be increased, because the local authority would say that as they had 2s. 6d. coming to them as a subvention they would spend 3s. In Camberwell from 1894 to 1904 the rates had increased in that manner, and his belief was that if they attempted to arrange for a single rate for the whole metropolitan area it would lead to fatal extravagance on the part of the municipal bodies, not only in London but in all parts of the country. They had been told that the rate in Poplar was 12s. and that in St. George's, Hanover Square, it was only 5s. But the rate levied in St. George's, Hanover Square, was three or four times more than the rate raised in Poplar. It must not be thought that merely because someone was living in a borough where the rent was very low he was paying a much larger rate than another man living in another borough where the rents were very high. The question was of very great importance; it went to the root of the municipal government in London, and he did not think it could be discussed on a Wednesday evening in an abstract manner, especially as there was no meaning in the Resolution as it stood. All that it said was that Parliament should recognise the fact that the present inequality of the rates raised in the different parishes in London required the early consideration of Parliament with a view to the establishment of one rate for the whole of the administrative county. He was certain that if Parliament was really going to do anything at all in the matter, the only business-like way of doing it was to establish one single central authority. He really rose to point out that the inequalities which, on the face of it, seemed to exist in London, did not exist, taking the rating all round as it now stood. He did not see why a Bill should not be introduced to alter the whole system of rating in London, but that should not be done by a Resolution proposed by a private Member. Such abstract Resolutions were useless and encouraged people to think that they were going to gain something for themselves.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Dr. MACNAMARA, Camberwell, N.) said that the House would have already gathered that the problem of London rating was a very complicated one. He would doubt whether there was anything like it in the rating systems of the civilised world; and to a provincial Member it must be amazing in the last degree. In the first place there were five central authorities which levied rates over the whole area: (1) the London County Council, which levied (*a*) a general rate; (*b*) an education rate; (*c*) an equalisation rate under the Act of 1894; (2) the Metropolitan Police Receiver; (3) the Metropolitan Asylums Board; (4) the Local Government Board, on account of the Metropolitan Poor Fund; and (5) the Central Unemployed Body under the Unemployed Act of 1905. In addition to that, there were two sets of local authorities which levied rates locally—the boards of guardians and the borough councils. Dealing first of all with the rates levied over the whole area by the five central bodies referred to, and taking the figures for 1906–7, these central bodies called on the ratepayers to pay a total of 5s. 1·478d. in the pound. That was what was raised for general purposes, and was made up by the three rates levied by the London County Council, viz., 1s. 5d. for county rate, 1s. 7d. for education, and 6d. for equalisation; a police rate of 5d.; a rate for the Metropolitan Asylums Board of 5·375d.; a rate for the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund of 8·864d. levied by the Local Government Board; and a rate of ·239d., or less than a farthing, levied by the Central Committee on the Unemployed under the Act of 1905. In the second place there were two sets of local authorities who levied rates locally—the guardians and the borough councils. The local rates levied by these two bodies varied in a remarkable degree. That, of course, must be so when the rateable value of the City of London per head of its night population was £187 3s., and the rateable value per head in St. George's-in-the-East was £4 3s. Therefore, obviously when they came to consider the rates made locally, they were face to face with a very remarkable differentiation. Let them take, first of all, the rate laid by the guardians. They enjoyed first of all, their shares—paid on expenditure and population—out of the Common Poor Fund which was raised by a general equalised rate levied all over London of 8·864d. in the pound in mitigation of local burdens. That was dispensed on an equalisation scale. For instance, Hampstead got value equal to a rate of 2·64d. in the pound and St James', Westminster, 3·5d., while on the other hand Bow got 25·16d.; Bromley, 25·4d.; Poplar 24·67d.; Limehouse, 27·45d.; Bethnal Green, 28·49d.; and St. George's-in-the-East, 37·28d. Before he came to the actual Poor Law rate levied locally he would point out that there was another smallish Equalisation Fund payable to the guardians by the London County Council in mitigation of the burden which ultimately fell on the locality. The County Council paid over to them 4d. per head for indoor poor; half the cost of medical officers' salaries and of drugs and medical appliances; made grants in aid of Poor Law teachers' salaries; paid towards the registration of births and deaths; and allowed 4s. per head per week for pauper lunatics. Under that arrangement the richer parts of the metropolis benefited to the extent of 2d. or 3d. in the pound, while in the poorer parts the amount was 6d. or 9d. In Bethnal Green indeed the rebatement came to 10½d. and in St. George's-in-the-East it was 15·45d. Notwithstanding these two rebatements, the incidence of local rating in respect of Poor Law work varied enormously. Of course it would vary much more but for the equalisations; but notwithstanding them and excluding them from the charge that fell upon the localities for Poor Law purposes, Hampstead having received those benefactions got off with 2·36d., Kensington with 3·74d., St. George's, Hanover Square, with 2·39d., and St. James', Westminster, with 1·83d. These were at the one pole, and, on the other hand, were Bermondsey which raised locally 2s. 2·15d.; Bow, 3s. 2·52d.; Bromley, 3s. 2·88d.; and Poplar, 3s. 1·76d.

Then they came to the municipal local rate laid by the borough councils. That was, in the first place, mitigated by equalisation under the Act of 1894. The County Council collected sixpence over the whole metropolitan area; that was put into a common purse, and when the total rate was made up sums were taken out in proportion to the burden on the locality for local rating purposes. All localities paid in sixpence, and richer districts in Westminster and the West End got out shares ranging from a farthing to threepence in the pound on rateable value, whereas the poorer parts got out, not a farthing or threepence, but —Bethnal Green a subvention or rebate equal to 14·43d.; Camberwell, 11·88d.; Bow, 12·9d.; Bromley, 13·99d.; Mile End New Town, 14·32; and Mile End Old Town, 13·7d. That included in each case the contribution to the Equalisation Fund. Then there was another very small rebate made by the County Council to borough councils, as they paid half the salaries of medical officers of health and sanitary inspectors, and there was a payment to the City Corporation in respect of City lunatics. He had endeavoured to trace the origin of that curious benefaction and had got back to 43rd Elizabeth. But the County Council had to make that rebate. Notwithstanding these rebates, municipal rates varied very considerably—from 6d. to 1s. 6d. in the richer parts, and, running to the other end of the gamut in the poorer, the operatives' parts of London, Woolwich had 2s. 4·18d. laid on for borough council purposes in addition to the subventions; Bow, 2s. 5d.; Bromley, 2s. 7·89d.; and Poplar, 2s. 8·6d. Such was the succinct history of London rates, and going over the whole field and taking the whole of the rates laid on London, five general and two local, with rebates and subventions, the mean rate, not the average rate as it was sometimes erroneously called, but the mean rate was 7s. 5·4d. in the £. But the total of the rates, central and local, laid on the various localities with the mitigation caused by rebates and subventions came out in Kensington and Paddington at 6s. 8d. in the pound. That was at the one end. At the other end they had Shoreditch, 8s. 1d.; Bethnal Green, 8s. 2d.; Battersea, 8s. 4d.; Camberwell, 8s. 11d.; Stepney, 8s. 11·95d.; Bermondsey, 9s. 3·99d.; and Poplar, 11s. 8·02d. He thought it must be obvious to anybody that equalisation to a greater extent than they had at present was urgently necessary. One thing they might do would be completely to equalise the poor rate, which would be a considerable advantage to the poorer parts. Then they would have to ask themselves whether they would rely on Local Government Board control to deal equitably between those who paid in and those who took out. The hon. Member for North St. Pancras did not think so, and the right hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London thought a central authority rather than a Government Board was required to deal fairly between those who paid in and those who took out. They might, he said, proceed by equalising the poor rate. If they did not do that they might proceed by an extension of the principle of the Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894. That took 6d. in the pound, which was put into a common purse, and paid out in reduction of the rates in each locality. It might be suggested that the 6d. should be made 1s. That had been closely considered; but it would have some curious and unexpected results. Or they might determine to have one general inclusive rate, for all purposes, for all London. That would be his 7s. 5·4d. at the present time. He agreed with the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London that if they did that they would have very seriously to consider the whole question of London local government. He did not know of any other city in the United Kingdom, or indeed in the civilised world, where if a person lived at one end of the city he paid one rate and if he lived at the other end he paid another. In this case they could apply the Apostolic injunction and help to bear one another's burdens. But if that was done, and it certainly was desirable to have one common rate, they would have to go very carefully into the whole question of the government of London. They could not possibly have, and no serious Parliament could justify, a procedure under which all parts of the city paid the same and independent local authorities came and took out what they liked. A number of inter-dependent questions would arise at once. When they came to consider one common rate they would have to consider the relations between the various local governing bodies, the question of various assessments, and, to mention one subject which had not been referred to in the debate, the question of the metropolitan area. They had large areas outside which they wanted to take very carefully into consideration. He accepted the Motion *ex animo* and as leading up to some action on the part of the Government in the direction of further equalisation, even if it were not the general and universal equalisation referred to that night. The equalisation of rates was put into the King's Speech in 1906, so that the Government were pledged to the principle, though it had become much more difficult of application on closer consideration than might have been at first imagined. They desired to deal with the question wisely, and he hoped that what he had said tended in that direction. Possibly the best course might be, especially if the subject was raised in its larger form, as he hoped it might be, through the medium of a complete inquiry into the incidence of the rate in connection with the inter-dependent questions of London local government. Or it might be that the Government would be able to deal with it without such an inquiry. But, however that might be, they did intend to deal with the question as promptly and as thoroughly as the circumstances of the case, and they were very serious, seemed to the Government to justify.

*MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End) said that from his knowledge, which was extensive, there was no town in the world where the rating system was more anomalous than it was in London. If Manchester were under the same peculiar and ridiculous system as existed in the Metropolis, it would mean that there would be districts in Manchester which would pay at least 15s., and other districts which would pay 5s. or less, in the pound. There was hardly a Member in the House but would say that that would be palpably unjust. What was right for Manchester and other towns of the United Kingdom must be right and just for the Metropolis. The Metropolis had grown up out of numerous villages which had retained their antiquated and ridiculous rating authorities. Even if each London borough had one rate for the whole borough, it would not be as absurd as the present system. When the Unionist Government established the borough councils, they included the whole of this ridiculous system. In the great city of Westminster there were eleven different rates, and they varied from 6s. to 7s. 8d. in the pound. In Stepney there were twelve different rates varying from 8s. to 9s. 7d. and so on throughout London. What was wanted was a system which was absolutely fair; the present system was absolutely unfair. A great number of the people in Mile End and Poplar worked during the bulk of the hours of the day in Westminster or Marylebone. They had to live in Mile End or some other place where they could get cheaper house accommodation, and it struck him as being hard that they should be mulcted in heavy rates, whereas the richer areas, more able to pay, got off almost scotfree. Then there was the question of indebtedness. In Westminster the indebtedness was £72 10s. per head of the population. In Bethnal Green it was £11 6s., in Stepney, £13 2s., in Mile End, about £12. Taking the indebtedness of London as a whole, they would say that the mean rate between £72 10s. in Westminster, and £11 6s. in Bethnal Green was the indebtedness of London. But that would be a wrong view of the case. The fact was that the districts with the more valuable property, and where they paid a smaller rate in the pound, had adopted a financial basis which was less sound than the basis adopted in the poorer districts. In the latter they paid for what they wanted out of the rates, whereas the richer districts followed the bad financial system of borrowing very heavily, because their rateable value was high. Then as to local expenditure; in Westminster it was £10 16s. per head of the population; in Stepney, £2 4s.; in Bethnal Green only £1 14s. It was absolutely absurd that one part of London should not take its fair share of responsibility for another part of London. The day would come, and perhaps was not so far distant as some hon. Members imagined, when those poorer districts would find it more difficult to get a sufficient rate to carry on their work properly, and they might experience what had been seen on the Continent, namely, neglect of the public health. The maintenance of the public health in the poorer areas was necessary in the interests of the richer areas, because infectious diseases spread, and made no distinction between rich and poor. He hoped and believed that something would be done by the Government after the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, which he welcomed, and they had not forgotten the promise in the King's speech of last year. There was no question of greater moment to the people of London than that of the equalisation of the rates. Perhaps the majority of Members did not like the complexion of the County Council as now constituted, but his argument was the same now as it was years ago, that the central authority should be the rating authority of London. There was no reason why they should not know local needs and requirements. It was all very well to talk of the difficulties in the way, but they already possessed the machinery for dealing with the evil, and it could be and should be used. The day would come when the difficulty of raising an adequate rate in the poorer districts would be so great that the interests of the public health would have to be neglected. He hoped the Government would recognise the necessity of dealing adequately and properly with this important question which had been dealt with in every other city in the world under one rate. Until that had been done the Government would not have done their duty to the greatest city in the world. He thanked the House for the kind attention they had given him, and he desired to congratulate the Parliamentary Secretary upon the very able and adequate way in which he had dealt with the question. As a London Member he hoped the Government would remember that there was no other London question of such vital importance as the one before the House.

Mr. W. PEARCE (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said that in his constituency the rates were 9s. 3d. in the pound, and be ventured to think that it would not be a matter of great difficulty to equalise the poor rate. If that one thing were done he was sure it would go a long way towards remedying the inequalities which existed at the present time.

*Sir W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.) said those localities which were suffering most from the inequalities referred to would be gratified by the statement which had been made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board. Those associated with the work of local authorities would be pleased to hear of the promise made on behalf of the Government, that any reform to be effective must be in the direction of simplification, equalisation, and unification. He was glad of the recognition that London was one, or almost one, and that matters of local taxation should be dealt with from that point of view; and, further, that the outside districts were also to be considered. The whole argument of the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary was not only that the House should accept the limited Motion on the Paper, but that it was also necessary to go further in the direction of unification of the rates for the whole of London. He could not dismiss from his mind the necessity for an entire rearrangement of London local government which would naturally arise from that conclusion. He was glad that in the hands of the present Government there was not much likelihood of London being cut up into a number of artificial local areas; that they recognised that London was in fact one, and that in matters of local government it should be dealt with on that assumption. The melancholy case of West Ham was fresh in the minds of hon. Members. West Ham was never satisfied until it got a corporation of its own, and it had never been satisfied since. Its rates, which were 5s. in the pound before incorporation, had now gone up to 10s. in the pound. He was very glad to hear that the Government recognised that it would be necessary also to deal with the outside districts. He would like to remind the representatives of the Local Government Board that the Report of the Royal Commission upon Local Taxation stated that many duties now locally administered, such as those connected with education and pauperism, were onerous burdens which ought to be national rather than local charges.

Mr. STUART (Sunderland) said that previous speakers had dealt with the question solely from the point of view of the tenants and occupiers. He wished to point out that it was a much more complicated question, because it was a landlord's question as well. The landlords in the poor districts suffered much more than the landlords in the rich districts. He thought the question might be looked at as one free altogether from Party politics. They all knew that the question of rates and their incidence was one of the most complicated subjects they could tackle. There seemed to be an impression that the burden of the rates fell upon the occupier. He had the honour of sitting upon the Royal Commission upon Local Taxation, and he had no hesitation in saying that at the end of the long inquiry held by that Commission there was not a single member of that body who was not convinced that the incidence of the rates in the long run fell very largely upon the landlord. Those who were expecting such great things from the proposed changes should remember that in what was suggested it would not be the tenant alone who would be benefited by the change, but the landlord would also be included. He had risen mainly to give this word of caution to the Government, and to those who were inclined to expect so much from these changes.

*Dr. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey) said that for the first time they had had a declaration from the Government Bench that London was one and indivisible, that with equalisation of rates there should also be uniformity of administration, and that the basis of valuation should be similar and that the poor were not a special product of any one district, but belonged to London. He sincerely hoped that if an inquiry took place it would not be made by a Royal Commission, but by a Committee of the House, which could deal quickly with the whole question. In that way they would not have the long and tedious delay which inquiry by a Royal Commission would involve.

Mr. PICKERSGILL expressed the hope that if the Government elected to proceed by having an inquiry before proposing legislation, they would appoint a Committee without delay, because after the pledges which were given at the last general election the people of London would be grievously disappointed if the question was not dealt with immediately.

*Mr. R. PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek) said the Motion proposed that there should be one rate. He would like to know what was to be rated. At the present time the rates for education, the registration of voters, main roads, and other matters, were levied according to the rateable value of the houses which people occupied or used as places of business. That was a most unequal mode of rating for any purpose. He hoped the Government, when they came to consider the matter, would introduce a method of rating by which the citizens would pay according to their means and not according to rental. Those who had the largest incomes should contribute the largest share of the cost.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the present inequality of the rates raised in the different parishes in London requires the early consideration of Parliament.—(*Mr. Crooks.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).

Postponed Proceeding on Question, "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to—(a) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (b) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders; (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the whole House in respect to other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon,"—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*)—resumed.

Mr. Pickersgill.

Motion made and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned," — (*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somerset, Wellington) moved the adjournment of the debate. He said that last Thursday the Prime Minister was asked a question about the business of the House for this week. He had handed to the Government Whips a copy of *The Times* giving the answer and he had not seen it since. The Prime Minister stated that to-morrow (Thursday) it was proposed to move the Speaker out of the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates and to take the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. The right hon. Gentleman said it was necessary to get the Third Reading by Thursday. He contended there was no reason why it should be taken that night, especially having regard to the fact that the Committee stage of an important Bill was behind it. It might be urged that the Bill was in a more advanced stage now than could have been anticipated last Thursday. But why was that so? A bargain was made across the floor of the House, and all he could say was that if statements were to be made by the Leader of the House on one day, and on the same day an arrangement come to between the Secretary for War and himself as representing the front Opposition Bench, and those bargains and arrangements were to be upset, he would be very chary of coming to such arrangements in future. On this occasion he thought that the Government had a particularly bad case. On Monday last, it would not be denied that on the Second Reading of this Bill they did not have a particularly happy time; and when on the Third Reading they might expect to be hammered again, they took the Bill at a period of the night when no reporters would be present. Another point was that this year the Army (Annual) Bill was in many important respects an almost entirely new Bill, and it ought to be given full and fair discussion by all those who were interested in the well-being of the private soldier. His hon. friends behind him wanted that full discussion, but apparently the Government desired to have the Third Reading of another important Bill in front of it in order to burke discussion, or to bring it on in the small hours of the morning when the debates were too late to be reported. He made his motion because he was speaking of a bargain made across the floor of the House, and because he did not believe in such Bills being hurried through.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) said that as regarded the Army (Annual) Bill, ever since he had been in the House it had been taken at that hour of the night, and he was there prepared to give the fullest information in his power to hon. and gallant Members opposite—quite as full information as had been given on former occasions. He did not desire in the least to curtail the consideration of the Bill.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said that as this matter affected the business of the House, he wished to reply to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wellington. He thought that the intervention of the right hon. Gentleman was somewhat ungenerous, if not ungracious. On Thursday night last the Prime Minister was interrogated as to the course of business, when he said that the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill would be taken on Tuesday, and the Third Reading on Wednesday. The House would remember that the Leader of the Opposition rose in his place and pressed the Prime Minister that it was not fair to take the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill on Tuesday, when at a quarter past eight the discussion would be interrupted for private Members' business and when so many of his supporters wanted to speak on the Bill. Having got the Report of Ways and Means through on Thursday night, in order to meet the views of the right hon. Gentleman and his Party the Government gave up the long Government day on Monday for the discussion of the Consolidated Fund Bill and contented themselves with the short day on Tuesday for their other business. In fact, the Government had altered their arrangements and gone out of their way to oblige hon. Gentlemen opposite, and now they were being blamed for it. Moreover, as must always be the case, announcements as to the course of public business made on a Thursday were bound in some respects to be provisional; but they endeavoured as far as they could to adhere to their plan.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said that that was the first time they had been told that announcements made as to the course of public business on Thursdays were bound to be provisional. They were not told so on Thursday last, when the hon. Gentleman made his forecast of the course of business for the next few days. He thought that it would have been within the ordinary scope of Parliamentary etiquette if the hon. Gentleman had informed the Opposition that this alteration in the business was to be made, and that the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill was to be taken that evening. They had a right to notice that this important Bill was to be taken instead of the Army (Annual) Bill. They would not have objected to the Bill being taken, if they had had fair notice. They did not object to the Secretary for War's measure being taken that night, because the right hon. Gentleman had given notice about it. But it was unfair to interpose the Consolidated Fund Bill between the Army (Annual) Bill and the House. He presumed that the Motion would be defeated and that they would have to discuss the Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, but he ventured to appeal to the Patronage Secretary even at the last moment to give way on the matter.

SIR F. BANBURY hoped the Patronage Secretary would reconsider his decision to force on the Consolidated Fund Bill that evening. He did not see how the hon. Gentleman was going to lose if he gave way. If he did so they would proceed with the Army (Annual) Bill as to which there was no intention to prolong the discussion indefinitely. One or two hours would be sufficient for the Army (Annual) Bill, and then the hon. Gentleman would have the next day to discuss the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill. That would not interfere with Supply, which he would get just the same. He asked the hon. Gentleman to consider for a moment, in his own interest and the interests of the House, whether he would not make a gracious concession and allow them now to proceed with the consideration of the Army (Annual) Bill.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) pointed out that the Prime Minister said on Thursday last that the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill would be taken on Tuesday, the Committee on Wednesday, and the Third Reading on Thursday. No alteration was made in that scheme of business except that by arrangement the Second Reading was taken on Monday instead of on Tuesday. Thereupon the Patronage Secretary said that it necessarily followed that in consequence of that alteration the Third Reading should be taken that night.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY pointed out that the Committee stage was under the arrangement to be taken that evening.

LORD R. CECIL said there could be no discussion on the Committee stage except of a technical character, but the Third Reading was a different matter and any question could be raised which in the view of hon. Members was of public importance. The Members of the Opposition had relied on a pledge given by the Prime Minister, and he felt that the House was in some little difficulty because the Prime Minister was not present. He felt convinced that if the Prime Minister had been present, he would have got up at once, and, throwing over the Patronage Secretary, said that any statement which he had made in the House and which had been relied upon by other Members must be observed literally, if the proceedings of the House were to be carried on with comfort and without friction. He thought that considering the statements which had been made and that the Prime Minister was not present to secure the strict fulfilment of the pledge he had given, the Government would be well advised to yield the point, which could make no difference to them, but which would make a considerable difference in the feelings of a large body of Members as to the way in which they had been treated.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick) said that nothing was more disagreeable or disconcerting than any dispute as to whether there had been a breach of faith with regard to the arrangement of business. He would point out to the noble lord that the Leader of the Opposition was absent, as well as the Prime Minister, and as during the course of the day it had been known exactly what the arrangements were, he should certainly have expected the Leader of the Opposition to have been present to raise the question if there had been any general impression that there had been breach of faith. He did not remember any case in which the successive stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill had not been taken on successive days. It was not possible to alter the present arrangements without causing considerable inconvenience to the House of Lords, whose business had been arranged on the assumption that the Third Reading of the Bill would be taken that night.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) hoped that the Government would not press this matter. If they persisted in taking two important measures like the Consolidated Fund Bill and the Army (Annual) Bill after eleven o'clock, it would be a characteristic illustration of the extraordinary way in which those now responsible for the business of the country conducted it. The House had fixed eleven o'clock as a reasonable time at which to finish business, and although they knew there were occasions on which it was absolutely necessary to proceed after that hour, and they knew the Army (Annual) Bill was to come on after that time, there was no reason why the discussion upon it should not commence at eleven o'clock. But it was a most important measure, which they ought not to be called upon to discuss in the middle of the night, and there was no reason for taking a second Bill after the hour at which the business of the House usually finished. He had private information that many supporters of the Government desired to raise important questions on the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, and they had been deliberately robbed of their opportunity. It had been suggested that if the Government yielded on this point facilities would be given to allow them to get the Army (Annual) Bill in an unreasonably short time. All he could say was that he would be no party to any thing of the sort.

*Mr. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said he had fully intended to call attention to what he thought was a real grievance on the Motion for the Third Reading of this Bill, which he understood was to be taken to-morrow. He had desired to raise the question of the block of business in the Courts, but owing to the change in the arrangements he was not prepared to state his case fully that night. He thought the alteration was a cause of real disadvantage to private Members, and he therefore appealed to right hon. Gentlemen opposite to have regard to what the Prime Minister was certainly understood to say last week, and to allow the debate to be adjourned.

Mr. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said the House had been told that arrangements were made last week with another place in order to allow the Government to take the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill to-night, but if such an arrangement had been made so long ago, it was a great pity the House was not informed earlier. There were many hon. Members who desired to raise important questions on the Third Reading of the Bill, and many hon. Members were determined to take the opportunity, it being one of the few opportunities private Members had. It was understood that the opportunity would arise to-morrow. The Prime Minister undoubtedly said so, and when the arrangement was made to transpose the business of Monday and Tuesday, all the House was told was that there had been an interchange of business. Not a word was said of any alteration of the business for Wednesday and Thursday. Under those circumstances, he urged that not only would great inconvenience be caused to private Members by the loss of the opportunity to raise important questions, but owing to the determination to raise those points, at no matter what hour, the course if persisted in would postpone to an unreasonable period of the night the discussion on the Army Annual Bill. He therefore urged the Government to allow the Bill to stand over until to-morrow.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 74; Noes, 263. (Division List No. 46.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, Hn Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson

Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson,John FrederickPeel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon Sir Edward Albert
Sheffield SirBerkeleyGeorge D.
Smith Abel H(Hertford, East)
Smith F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Stanley Hon.Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Valentia and Lord Edmund Talbot.

NOES.

Abraham. William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith,Rt.Hon HerbertHenry
Baker,Joseph A(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,Sir J.H(Essex,Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol,S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major EMartin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A. Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester
Mackarness, Frederick C.
Maclean, Donald
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson,Charles N(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William

O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S.M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question again proposed.

*MR. CAVE called attention to the state of business in the Court of Appeal. He made no reflection whatever upon the conduct or arrangement of business in that Court, but it was the fact that owing to circumstances entirely outside the control of the Court there was a serious block of business. He did not know whether the House was aware that throughout the sittings the Court of Appeal had been engaged upon appeals from the King's Bench and the Probate Divisions, and the result was that there had not been half a dozen appeals from the Chancery side disposed of during the present sittings. No doubt the Court of Appeal had a right to deal first with King's Bench appeals, which were in arrear; but the practical effect was a denial of justice to suitors in the Chancery Division during the present sittings. The list of appeals set down before the commencement of the sittings had not been appreciably reduced, and many new appeals had accumulated. They who were familiar with the Courts knew that the work of the Appeal Court, on the common law side, had immensely increased during the last few years. The appeals under the Workmen's Compensation Acts occupied a great deal of time.

*MR. SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member state on which Vote in the Bill he is making his remarks.

*MR. CAVE said he understood that part of the Vote which the House was asked to pass in the Bill was connected with the Civil Service Expenditure, and might be applied to paying the salaries so the Judges.

*MR. SPEAKER: Not to the salaries of the Judges.

*MR. CAVE said he had always been under the impression that any genuine grievance connected with the administration of justice could be properly raised upon this Bill. He understood that some part of this Vote was devoted to the payment of the expenses of the Court of Appeal.

*MR. SPEAKER: I asked the hon. and learned Member what particular Vote made his remarks relevant, and so far he has not made any reply to my question.

LORD R. CECIL asked if it would be relevant to discuss the administration of the Courts of Justice generally on the salary of the Attorney-General on the ground that he ought to have advised the Crown to create more Judges ?

*MR. SPEAKER : That question cannot be discussed, because it would be a matter for legislation.

LORD BALCARRES asked the President of the Board of Education to state the general policy of his Department in regard to repairs to voluntary schools. Would the right hon. Gentleman allow to voluntary schools in England the indulgence granted to provided schools in Wales ? He also asked what the right hon. Gentleman's scheme was for the distribution of the grant of £100,000 provided in the Estimates for elementary schools. That sum had been allotted for the provision of new schools, and he would like to have some further information from the right hon. Gentleman in regard to that proposal. All they had been told up to the present was that it was a contribution towards solving the difficulty in the single school areas. How could it be contended that such a sum would solve the difficulty by the provision of new schools ? It was quite evident that not more than 10,000 children at the outside could be accommodated by that sum. He wanted to know what was the right hon. Gentleman's scheme for the distribution of the money. How did he propose to allocate it to the different counties ? He could not understand how the grant was at all compatible with Clause 96 of the Act of 1870.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.) said the two classes of schools were not on the same footing. It was a statutory duty on both the local education authority and managers to provide buildings efficiently equipped for the purposes of schools, but the penalty was not the same in both cases. If the managers of a non-provided school failed to perform their part of the contract, it was the duty of the local education authority no longer to maintain the school, and upon that point the Board of Education had no alternative but to carry out the law. No part of the £100,000 referred to would be spent if the legal advisers of the Crown advised that it would be improper to spend it in view of Section 96 of the Act of 1870. There was obviously a difficulty with regard to that section. It was a question not for him so much as for the legal advisers of the Crown. [AN OPPOSITION MEMBER : Where are they ?]

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) : Where is Balfour ?

MR. MCKENNA said that if the legal advisers of the Crown were of opinion that the section precluded the expenditure of any part of the £100,000 without a special Act, no money under the Vote would be spent until he had had an opportunity of bringing in a special Act. It was a very difficult and technical point of law, and at present he could not say more on that subject. The intention of the Vote was very simple. It had come to his knowledge that in certain districts there was no school open for parents to send their children to except a school of a particular denominational character. In those cases if the parents desired that a new school should be built for their children to attend, no doubt under Section 8 of the Act of 1902 it would be open for any person to object to that proposal. After the Board of Education had heard the objections and decided in favour of the parents, it would be open for the parents to apply to the Board of Education for a sufficient grant to put up the necessary school. This sum was not intended for general distribution over all the counties in the country. It was intended for the purpose of providing against particular cases of tyranny, and it would, he believed, prove ample for the purpose.

LORD R. CECIL said he was glad that the Attorney-General had entered the House. It appeared to him that Section 96 of the Act of 1870 prevented the application of the £100,000 in the way proposed by the Government. The President of the Board of Education had referred to the matter as difficult and complicated. He differed from the right hon. Gentleman. It appeared to him to be a very clear case. There seemed to be no doubt whatever that without amending the Act of 1870 they could not apply any sum out of a Parliamentary Grant in the way proposed. In some way or other the Government were going to make a gift of this sum to the local authorities, not, he presumed, as part of the Parliamentary Grant, but in some other form, towards the building or enlarging of schools. He did not know that that could be done. Of course, there was Section 9 of the 1902 Act, but that did not appear to provide for any grant by the central Government towards the building of a new school. There were one or two other points which he wished to put to the Government in regard to the administration of the Board of Education. There was the dispute between the Swansea local authority and the managers of the non-provided schools —not only Church of England schools, but Roman Catholic schools also. The managers of the non-provided schools had taken up the position that they should be treated in an equal manner with the provided schools as to allowances for cleaning, lighting, and teaching; but they had been resisted by every means and evasion by the local education authority. The Board of Education, when appealed to, whether presided over by a Conservative Minister or by a Liberal or Radical Minister, had uniformly decided in favour of the managers, and against the local education authority. There had been one long continued struggle between the managers and the local education authority. The last question raised was that the teachers should receive the same salaries in the non-provided schools as in the provided schools and the managers had pointed out that unless they could pay the same salaries their efficient teachers would necessarily leave their schools, and go elsewhere. The fact was that the desire of the local education authority was to starve the non-provided schools out of existence. [Cries of "Oh, oh."] He made that charge perfectly. The local education authority said to the managers of the voluntary schools—"You fix the salaries of the teachers, and we will see whether we can do anything in the matter." In truth they forced the managers to undertake the responsibility of paying the salaries of the teachers out of their own pockets if the local education authority could wriggle out of their responsibility. That was not a position to adopt if they wished to secure the efficiency of education. All this conduct was animated simply by religious bigotry and intolerance. He did not believe that the right hon. Gentleman, speaking as the responsible Minister for Education, would venture to say a word in support of the conduct of that local authority, or that any hon. Member opposite, however bitter a Nonconformist he might be, would rise in his place to defend their action. He wished to know what steps the Government proposed to take in order to secure justice in the matter. He understood that the competent teachers were leaving the voluntary schools, and those who suffered most were the children. He insisted that a strong case had been made out for the interference of the Government in the interests of education itself. He had been furnished by a gentleman who was not a Conservative in politics, who recently won a seat on the county council in Monmouthshire, with a letter in which it was stated that he fought his election distinctly on the basis of fair play for both the non-provided and provided schools; and he added on behalf of his constituents that a strong voice had been raised against the unjust treatment meted out to the non-provided schools by the local education authority. He asked the hon. Gentleman the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, whom they all knew to be a fair-minded man, whether it was a fact that there had been this unfair treatment of the non-provided schools in Monmouthshire, and what steps the Government intended to take in order to secure that justice should be done in the matter. He hoped that this grievance, which was both religious and educational, would be amended.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said that the noble Lord had brought before the House a point of law in connection with a Vote to be made in regard to education, which involved a question of great importance, having reference to the powers of the House respecting Votes of Supply and its relation to Parliament.

If he fully understood the point raised by the hon. Member, it might be stated in these terms:—By the Act of 1870 further grants towards the erection of voluntary schools were prohibited. The practice of making these grants had been established for many years, and the grants made by the House of Commons from time to time in aid of the building of voluntary schools were afterwards sanctioned by Appropriation Acts. It was now proposed to set aside a sum with a view to assisting the building of schools under circumstances which had been indicated by his right hon. friend. Of course the House would observe that the conditions since 1870 had entirely changed, and therefore it might well be that while Parliament some thirty-seven years ago considered that the policy of assisting school buildings should come to an end, they might now under the altered conditions take an entirely different view of the educational policy which was calculated to serve the national interest. But still, although the conditions had changed, the constitutional difficulty remained. Undoubtedly there was a statutory prohibition against the voting of money for this purpose, and he supposed it might be said and might very well be argued that while Parliament, consisting not only of this House, but of the Lords, prohibited a Vote of money for this purpose until the Act of Parliament had been repealed, such a Vote would be unconstitutional. That contention he agreed rested upon very strong grounds, but there still remained the far more interesting question of the method or the machinery by which a change in the prohibition of the Act of 1870 could be effected. It would be a strong thing to hold that, under conditions which had entirely changed, in the lifetime of a generation, a statutory provision could interfere with the constitutional privilege of the House to vote supplies for any purpose which they thought was necessary. Assuming that the statutory prohibition existed, how could it be removed? Every Vote of the House, before it could be operative, became effective by means of an Act of Parliament, and he knew of no legal principle by which they could differentiate between the operative effect of statutes other than the Appropriation Act, and of that Act itself, which was an Act of Parliament, giving legislative authority to a Vote of the House. It might well therefore be, although it was open to discussion, that although the ordinary function of an Appropriation Act was simply to take a sum out of the Consolidated Fund and apply it to satisfying Votes which the House had passed in Committee, there was nothing which would prevent its being applied to any purpose to which Parliament thought fit to apply it. It was quite possible that by means of an Appropriation Act passed by both Houses the statutory prohibition would be removed.

LORD R. CECIL said he would just like to ask which clause of this Bill could possibly be regarded as a repeal of the Act of 1870.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said he understood that there was no express repeal of an Act in question; he was referring to the Appropriation Act, by means of which all the money Votes of the House became effective, because the statute took the sum out of the Consolidated Fund and applied it to the object to which it had been devoted by a Resolution passed in Committee. If the House thought proper to decide under the altered conditions in which we lived that a sum of money might be granted for a prohibited purpose and an Appropriation Act was framed so as to give the force of statute to that Resolution, and that Act were passed by both Houses of Parliament, he thought they might contend that that was a perfectly constitutional and orthodox way of repealing the Act which imposed the prohibition. He spoke with some diffidence, because he knew lawyers might well hold a different view. The difficulty might be obviated by a Bill, which would appear to be a simpler plan, but that course would set a precedent which would lead to a multiplication of statutes. On the whole, the Appropriation Act seemed to be the better way of making operative the decisions of the House of Commons. The matter was, however, one of very considerable difficulty, and the House in coming to a conclusion must not confine itself to the decision of the question whether the prohibition could be removed in the way he had indicated, but must devote its attention to the larger question of the way in which the House might exercise its privileges and vote supplies for any purpose that it wished. As to the Swansea dispute he did not understand that the noble Lord desired to reflect upon the conduct of the Education Department, but that he was endeavouring to reflect upon the conduct of the education authority in Swansea in regard to the managers of the schools, and he had imputed motive to the local education authority which might or might not be well founded. He did not think, however, that that was a matter with which the House had any concern. The education authority had a right to exercise their function in connection with the administration of the Act as they chose, just as the managers of the schools were entitled to use their powers under the Act of 1902. The whole of the difficulty was due to the extraordinary and complicated machinery of that amazing statute, because under it the management of the school was vested in one body and the administration and control of expenditure in another authority. The managers of the schools had the right of engaging teachers, and the questions which arose as to the engagements of teachers and their salaries differed in a variety of circumstances, such as the indirect payment which a teacher might receive by reason of being allowed to occupy a house or by reason of participating in certain advantages which might attach to his office. All these advantages had to be considered before a conclusion could be come to as to the terms upon which a teacher was to be engaged. The local education authority had a right to take up the position that they had nothing to do with the engagement of teachers, and that the managers as trustees for schools must make the contract which they thought proper. They were not only entitled to take up that position, but the managers could force them to take it up. The managers had no right to throw upon the education authority the responsibility for fixing the terms; but, on the other hand, the education authority had no right to interfere with the managers in this regard. All the education authority could do was to control the expenditure, but that arose when the accounts were audited at the end of the year. They might then point out if they thought proper that in their opinion excessive sums had been paid to the teachers, but the answer to that was, "We invited your suggestions as to the sums which ought to be paid. You refused to assist us and left us to use our own discretion." And, unless the education authority could show that the managers had acted negligently and with indifference in the discharge of their duties, no criticism of the expenditure could be entertained. His right hon. friend when appealed to would point out that the education authority had deprived themselves of any right to criticise when they refused to consider the terms at the suggestion of the managers. The whole difficulty arose from the fact that Parliament in its wisdom thought fit to fix the responsibility for education on two authorities. It, however, gave a power of appeal to the Education Department which he had no doubt when consulted would arrive at a solution which would be just to both parties.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said the haste of the right hon. Gentleman to reply would seem to give rise to the impression that there was no other point to be answered with regard to education. But there were other points. Considerable apprehension had been caused among the members of the English Church in Wales at the policy of the Government in creating a Welsh Education Department and the appointment of Mr. Davies as the head of that Department. On a previous occasion the House was unable to obtain any reply to the question as to what steps had been taken to ascertain that Mr. Davies was the best person to fill that position, and whether there were not other gentlemen better qualified by being acquainted with the Welsh language and having in other respects equally good qualifications with Mr. Davies. The House was told that that gentleman's appointment was largely due to the fact that he was well acquainted with Welsh opinion on the subject. What had occurred at Question-time had made his apprehension still more acute. Last week he put a Question to the right hon. Gentleman as to the application of the local education authority to close a particular Church school in Denbighshire—the school at Llanychan. The reply was that the application had been received, but there had been no time to read it. To-day he had again put the Question, this time in two parts. That Question was, first, To ask the President of the Board of Education, if he could now state what grounds the local Education Authority for Denbighshire had advanced for holding the school at Llanychan to be unnecessary; and, secondly, what action the Board of Education proposed to take in the matter. He was quite prepared to hear that the Board of Education had not had time to consider the application, but he was not prepared for the answer to the first part of his Question—that the Board had not as yet been informed of the grounds on which the closing of the school was considered necesssary. Was he to understand that the education authority sent in an application without stating the grounds?

MR. McKENNA said the education authority had applied to close the school without stating their grounds, but they had grounds which they would state.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said if that was so the proper answer to the local authority would have been that no attention would be paid to the application until the grounds for it were given. Under the Act of 1902 there was a section which said the Board of Education should without unnecessary delay determine whether a school was necessary or not, and that in arriving at the determination they should have regard to the instruction, the wishes of the parents, and other matters of that sort.

MR. McKENNA said no attempt would be made to settle the question at all until they had the facts before them. No steps had been taken.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said the school might be closed without their having had any opportunity of showing why it should not be closed, and he was confirmed in his suspicion of the dangers of the Welsh Department with a man at the head of it chosen, apparently without any competition with other people, on account of his sympathies with the Welsh revolt. According to the section which had been quoted, a school could not be considered as unnecessary unless the average attendance had been below thirty. In the school in question from May 1st to August, 1906, the attendance was thirty-four; in the next six months it was twenty-nine, which was partly due to an epidemic of mumps, and the children could not get back to their duties. He contended, therefore, that there was no ground for closing the school, because it had not been proved that the attendance was below thirty. There was a council school some little distance away from the church school, and the master of that school, accompanied by the minister of the Methodist Chapel adjoining, he understood, had been visiting the parents of children going to the church school with the object of trying to persuade them to keep their children away until it was possible to prove that the attendance was below thirty. If that was the way in which Welsh public opinion was to be interpreted by the Board of Education they would have a good deal to say against the new Welsh Department.

MR. McKENNA: Mr. Davies has not yet entered upon his functions.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said he was only expressing the hope that when the gentleman did enter upon them he would not follow the course suggested by the Denbighshire local education authority.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said in reference to the new vote of £100,000 for building schools, they were, of course, all bound to accept the statement of the Attorney-General on a point of law, and he would not venture to dispute it. But he had been accustomed all his life to study the Education Acts and the history of Education Grants, and he thought that the Attorney-General would find that although grants were made as long ago as 1833, they did not for a long time depend upon any Act of Parliament. The Attorney-General had told them that the grants were regulated by a series of statutes, and that the money was assigned under the Appropriation Act. To his knowledge there was no statute whatever previous to the Act of 1870 which provided for any education grant of any sort at all. The grants were made until 1870 solely under the minutes of the Department, and were placed in the Votes for the year, but they never had any statutory authority until the Act of 1870 was passed.

SIR JOHN WALTON: There is the Schools Sites Act.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said that that did not provide for grants. It made certain provisions on the acquirement of sites by local authorities, but it did not provide for any grants whatever. Mr. Forster and the Government of Mr. Gladstone intended that building operations should be the work of the locality, and at the expense of the locality, and that the means whereby grants could be earned from the National Exchequer should be provided by the local authority. The right hon. Gentleman had in his Department a legal adviser. Surely, when this amount of £100,000 was entered for the first time the right hon. Gentleman consulted the legal adviser. If the legal adviser had expressed, as he was inclined to think he must have done, that there was some ground for doubting the legality of the grant, did the right hon. Gentleman then consult the law officers of the Crown? He went further in his objection to their grant than the mere legal irregularity which it involved. It did not mean merely a contravention of the Act of Parliament. What did it mean? It meant that they were giving to one part of the United Kingdom those means which other parts of the United Kingdom had to provide for at their own expense in order to obtain yearly grants out of the Exchequer. Why should this be accorded to England and Wales alone? [AN HON. MEMBER: Scotland.] Scotland had no such grant, and it was an injustice which she shared with Ireland. The policy embodied in the two great Education Acts had been departed from without taking legal advice, and in flagrant defiance of the fundamental policy of those Acts.

COLONEL R. WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said they had often opposed the principle of legislation by reference, but the Government now appeared to have introduced an entirely new principle, that of legislation without any reference at all, because this Bill was going to repeal Acts which had never been mentioned. He would like the Secretary to the Board of Education to elucidate somewhat the answer which had been given with regard to the difference in the treatment meted out to provided and non-provided schools. The Minister for Education had given a very clear exposition of the case, but in the end it simply amounted to this, that the Board of Education had to judge what was reasonable. What was the test of reasonableness to be applied to schools in different parts of the country? He would like to know why the carrying out of certain requirements in the case of a provided school was considered reasonable when spread over a period of seven years, and why in the case of a non-provided school a period of six months only was considered long enough to fulfil similar requirements?

SIR J. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth) said this appropriation of £100,000 illustrated the real grievance so far as it affected Nonconformity. The Minister for Education had told them that it was proposed, wherever there was a grievance in a single school area, to provide some special remedy to enable them to build a provided school. The difficulty referred to was not a small point, because if it was known in any particular district that it was possible simply by an application to the Board of Education to get some assistance for a provided school that fact alone would be sufficient to secure that misuse of opportunity which so often resulted in such cases. If the Minister in charge of a Bill the effect of which would be to deduct 15 per cent. from the pay of the teachers in non-provided schools would withdraw his proposal and bring in a measure to deal fairly with the question there would be some prospect of a reasonable compromise being arrived at.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member is not entitled to discuss matters of legislation.

SIR J. RANDLES said he was rather surprised at one of the statements made by the Attorney-General. The hon. and learned Gentleman had said that the managers appointed the teachers. He had always been under the impression that the managers nominated the teachers and that they were appointed by the local education authority. The names of the teachers were sent in by the managers, but they could be either accepted or rejected by the local education authority.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) moved that the Bill be read a third time this day six months. The express enactment of the Act of 1870 forbidding the making of a grant for any particular purpose was impliedly being over-ruled by the Appropriation Bill. Would the Attorney-General give him an instance where such a repeal had ever been made before? It was an unconstitutional proceeding, and he submitted that no such case had ever occurred in the history of Parliament. It was sufficient for his purpose to say that it had never been done before. It was not the object of the Appropriation Bill to repeal an enactment by a side wind. He was glad to hear from the Attorney-General that the Board of Education intended to enforce the rights of managers of the schools. He agreed with the hon. and learned Gentleman in the position which he had taken up on the question of the appointment of teachers. He begged to move.

SIR F. BANBURY, in seconding the Amendment, said the Attorney-General could not deny that many legal authorities might take a view contrary to that which he had expressed. That being so, and in view of the fact that it was now one o'clock, he thought the Amendment should be agreed to. The debate was brought on at eleven o'clock when no one expected it. It had practically been proved that the Government were committing an illegal act. The Solicitor-General had not been able to get up and confirm the opinion hesitatingly given by the Attorney-General. The purpose to which the £100,000 was to be applied might be very good, but the money was not to be applied to all parts of the Kingdom. Scotland and Ireland were excluded from this illegality. He was rather surprised that no Member from Ireland had got up to say that he was prepared to take a share of the £100,000, and run the risk of the Vote's being illegal. If such a proposal had been made when the Conservative Government was in office, hon. Members on on all sides would have protested against its being sanctioned. He would be the last to suggest that the President of the Board of Education knew that he was doing an illegal act. He excused the right hon. Gentleman because he had only just succeeded to the office. The Chief Secretary for Ireland, who had the facts at his finger ends, was not present. That was another reason why the Bill should not be then disposed of. The Attorney-General had apparently just returned from a pleasant evening party, and it was not fair that he should be committed to a legal opinion without mature deliberation.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word, 'now' and at the end of the question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) said he was surprised, after the speeches which had been made, at the silence which was as discreet as it was unusual on the part of hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Act of 1870 distinctly debarred the Government from applying the £100,000 in the way proposed. The House had it on the authority of the learned Attorney-General that, although the section of the Act of 1870 was out of date, it still remained the law of the land. The Attorney-General had committed himself to the opinion that the voting of the money until Parliament had repealed the section prohibitory was illegal. The only way in which the Attorney-General could get over the difficulty was that one Act of Parliament passed by this House and by the House of Lords, if sanctioned by the Sovereign, might be taken to override any previous Act of Parliament with which it might be in conflict, and that the Appropriation Act might enable such a thing to be done. They were not now dealing with the Appropriation Act; that was passed only at the end of the session. He admitted that the question was one of great difficulty and complexity, and he asked the House if it was fitting and proper at one o'clock in the morning that they should deal with a matter which the Attorney-General himself declared involved far-reaching constitutional issues. He was confident that they on that side of the House had not the slightest intention of dividing against the Bill. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why not?] He did not think that his Party had ever committed themselves to a course of that kind; and they would not on the present occasion; but in order to afford time to deal with the great and important constitutional question involved, he begged to move that the debate be now adjourned.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

The House divided: Ayes, 62; Noes, 218. (Division List, No 47.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.Sir H.
Banbury,Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.Victor C.W
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone,
Coates,E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, Captain James(Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H.B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Roberts,S (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorgeD.
Smith,Abel H(Hertford,East)
Smith,F. E (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Lord Balcarres and Mr. Forster.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith,Rt Hon.HerbertHenry
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir WmJ.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E(Derbyshire,NE.)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh,Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hn. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Chas.N.(Doncaster)
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk,Eye
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S.M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant,SirEdward(Salisbury)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
William,Llewelyn (Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said he desired to repeat a question which had not been answered, as to the appointment of Mr. Davies to the Welsh Education Board. They had not been told what the qualifications of Mr. Davies were, or why he had been appointed. They did not know what previous educational work he had done, or in what way he was fitted to discharge the duties of his office. The appointment was of a most important and novel character, and the House ought to know why this gentleman had been selected. The House had had no adequate explanation why provided and non-provided schools should not be treated on the same basis and given equality of treatment. He hoped the Government even now would take the opportunity of reassuring hon. Members who wished to see fair play to all schools, not only in Wales but in England.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) was perfectly certain that those who were acquainted with the educational problem throughout the United Kingdom would admit that England, Scotland and Wales, were far ahead of Ireland, both in the way in which education was carried out, and in all the sanitary appointments of the schools. The Chancellor of the Exchequer a year ago held out some hope that Ireland would at last through a Liberal Government receive assistance to a large and substantial amount. The right hon.

Gentleman said it was unnecessary for him to assure hon. Gentlemen that within the limits of his possibilities and opportunities, it would be his desire to give effect to that hope, by translating it into concrete action. The right hon. Gentleman then went on to say that resistance to the claims of Ireland or any other part of the Kingdom did not rest in the long run with the officials of the Treasury. The responsibility rested with the Government, and he could assure hon. Gentlemen from Ireland that so far as his legal power allowed he would see, in regard to educational matters in which he thought Ireland had a real grievance, that Irish funds were not unduly encroached upon and that the Imperial Exchequer should contribute; that in the course of the next few months he would go carefully into the matter and see how far it was possible to deal with it. An opportunity was now given to the right hon. Gentlemen to explain how those words were going to be justified, and whether it would not be possible for him, if he had found it inconsistent with something he had said in the meantime, to hold out an assurance that some of the many terrible pains and penalties under which the youth of Ireland suffered, first of all in proceeding to school in the depths of winter over rough roads, and having then to sit, perhaps ill-clad, without a fire, the whole day through, were going to be removed. Hon. Gentlemen, when these appeals were made, seemed to think the circumstances were exaggerated, but they were not. The late Chief Secretary for Ireland said he approached the subject with sympathy and that at the earliest possible moment he would remove the blot from the government of Ireland. The present Chief Secretary said he understood that every child was expected to bring a piece of peat with him to the school-house so as to build up a fire to warm the children for the rest of the day. Since the ancient statute was passed the circumstances had changed; parts of the country which were then covered with peat were entirely altered. There was now no peat, and it was impossible for these little children to bring it to school. When one had regard to the large amount of money that was given to Scotland and England for education it seemed very hard that a small amount could not be given to Ireland to remove this crying evil which was a disgrace and a shame to the Government. Even the Attorney-General for Ireland said that primary education in Ireland had been most shamefully neglected in the past. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had spoken of hundreds of thousands as though they were mere bagatelles. The right hon. Gentleman had gone on to say that they had been face to face with a great difficulty, but it had been removed. If primary education was to be made good, and teachers properly paid, the Government would by some means or other secure funds for that primary education which every member of the Government regarded as being of as much importance in Ireland as in England, and which must be dealt with and dealt with quickly. There they had the opinions of two members of the Government. A third member of the Government, who had since been appointed to the Embassy at Washington, had said that the salaries of Irish teachers were inadequate, and had held out a promise of improved remuneration. He had spoken of the excellence of Irish teachers, and said, as to the question of how reforms were to be effected, that in the first place more money was required, and all he could do was to plead for the liberal treatment of Irish education, because without more money very much could not be done. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover, when he was Chief Secretary for Ireland, stated emphatically that the only way to consider grants in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales was to approach the whole question on the basis of population. On referring to the figures they would be appalled at the injustice done to Ireland. In 1901–2 England had £9,500,000; Scotland, £1,333,000; and Ireland, £1,387,000. There was equality between Ireland and Scotland, because there was equality of population. But to come to the figures of the present year. England in 1907–8 had £13,500,000; Scotland, £2,255,400; Ireland, £1,408,000, though the population of the two latter countries was practically identical. It could not be said that Ireland was fairly treated, with the school buildings tumbling about their ears in many places. The sanitary condition of the schools, in large towns like Belfast, where the population had grown during the last twenty or thirty years, was quite inadequate. The buildings were often old, and the children were herded together so closely during the time they were being taught that it really moved one's heart to see them. It was impossible, in such conditions, that the children could take the best advantage of the education afforded; besides which, the conditions were injurious to their health and to the race as a whole. Many of the evils from which Ireland suffered were due to the fact that children were confined in inadequate and rotten schools. It could not be expected that they would grow up to be strong and healthy men and women; nor could they hope for improvement, unless the right hon. Gentleman carried out some at all events of the many specious promises which he made last year. Hon. Members representing the wealthier parts of England and Scotland had very little idea of what went on in the poorer parts of Ireland. He challenged anyone in the House to read the speeches delivered by the three responsible Ministers to whom he had referred — who still sat silent and would not get up and answer the arguments which had been addressed to them—and prove that they had carried out the pledges given in those speeches.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the hon. and gallant Member must know that the first Order down for that day was a discussion upon primary education in Ireland.

Captain CRAIG: I was quite aware of it.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said it appeared to him that the hon. Member had just been rehearsing the speech he intended to deliver in the debate on primary education. He sincerely hoped that having heard that speech they would not be obliged to listen to it again on some future occasion. Of course, the hon. and gallant Member was entitled to speak on the subject, but after having kept them up with a long discourse now it would be scarcely fair and not in accordance with the Standing Order to have a repetition of the same speech that day. With reference to the grant of £100,000, it had always been the practice, when such grants were made to this country for education, that equivalent grants should be made to Scotland and Ireland. Last year, when £1,000,000 was allocated to education in this country, it was clearly understood that equivalent grants would be made to Scotland and Ireland. On behalf of Ireland he wished to put in a claim for such a grant.

Lord EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester) asked the Attorney-General if he agreed with the view that the Vote was illegal.

Sir JOHN WALTON: I did not say that it was illegal. What I said was that it might need statutory authority.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided: Ayes, 216; Noes 54. (Division List No. 48.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Hrbert Henry
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(SPancras,W.

Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan, F. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E.(DerbyshireN.E,)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.

Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R.C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
McVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye,
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Enidb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. Waterford)
Richards, T.F. Wolverh'mpt'n

Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, SirEdward(Salisbury
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry(Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth,
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James

Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd

Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford

Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BuryS.Edmd's
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Micholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir BerkeleyGeorge D.
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 214; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 49.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt.Hn. HerbertHenry
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.HnRichardKnight
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
rosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
McVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nicholson,CharlesN. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E.(Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond,John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon

Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashtonunder Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn Sir Alex. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lonsdale and Mr. Courthope.

MR. ASQUITH claimed, "That the main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided:—Ayes, 210; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 50.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt Hn. Richard Knight
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen; (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C, H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W, Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh.)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.

Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald,J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
McVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, PatrickJoseph
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea,Walter Russell(Scarboro'
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick,B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley,Hn A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L.(Leeds,S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luve (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex.F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Covendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone,E.)
Coates,E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson,John FrederickPeel
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpoo)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorgeD
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount

Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Courthope and Mr. Bridgeman.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) hoped that it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with this important measure at that time of night. They had been occupied for several hours discussing a Bill which none of them had expected would be taken, and he hoped they would not be asked to embark upon a discussion of the Army (Annual) Bill to which the Secretary of State for War had himself put down two Amendments, and in regard to which he had issued two separate Memoranda, one of which appeared that afternoon for the first time. He was told that that Memorandum did not tally with the Bill, and he should think, having regard to the importance of the Bill and to the interest taken in it on both sides, the Government would not attempt to pass the measure at that hour. It was a Bill which had always taken a considerable amount of time to discuss, and he suggested that the Government should take the course which was most convenient to the House at large and adjourn the discussion. He moved that progress be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

MR. HALDANE: We desire to take the course which is most convenient to the House of Commons generally, and that is to finish this Committee at the sitting.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) said that after listening to the very courteous speech of the right hon. Gentleman he proposed to offer only a few words on this Motion. [Laughter.] Some hon. Members appeared to treat the Bill in a jesting manner. [AN HON. MEMBER: You are doing that.] On the contrary he regarded the Bill as a very serious one, and if hon. Members were aware of the way in which it affected every officer and man in the Army, the Yeomanry, and the Volunteers, they would think so too. [Laughter.] Some hon Members seemed to spend more time in the refreshment room than in the House.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The noble Lord is not entitled to make observations of that kind. He must confine himself to the Motion before the House.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said he intended no reflection upon hon. Members by using the words "refreshment rooms," and if the Chairman would allow him he would substitute the words "smoking room." All he meant to say was that this Bill was not a jesting matter.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The noble Lord must confine his observations to the Motion.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said that one of the reasons why he supported the Motion was that this being a very important Bill affecting the whole of the British Army, it should not be discussed at that hour of the morning. He hoped, having regard to the fact that the House had got through a good deal of business, and that the right hon. Gentleman had seven pages of Amendments to the Bill, which had only recently been circulated, the Government would reconsider their decision, and allow the Bill to be discussed at a more reasonable hour.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD pointed out that whilst the Secretary of State for War was not responsible for the convenience of Members of the House he was responsible for the discipline of the Army. When a Minister in the position of the right hon. Gentleman got up and said he was consulting the convenience of the House of Commons, and not the discipline of the Army, that was a very strong statement to make. The Committee were entitled on a Bill of this kind, which in many respects was practically a new measure, and the private soldiers of the country were entitled, to more than the single sentence with which the right hon. Gentleman had dismissed them.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) supported the Motion to report progress, because in his opinion it was a serious thing for the Committee to be asked to embark on the discussion of so important a Bill at that hour in the morning. It was perfectly obvious that if the Government had not chosen to take the discussion on the Consolidated Fund Bill the discussion on this Bill would have been very far advanced by then, if not almost finished. The action of the Government in proposing to take the Bill at a time when the Committee, if not jaded, was in no humour to deal with a large amount of new matter, such as was contained in this Bill, showed that they were treating neither the House, the Bill, nor the Army seriously. Had the Bill come up in the old hardy annual shape, there might have been some excuse for the course the Government had adopted, but that was not the case. The Bill contained a considerable amount of new matter, and it was absurd that the Committee should be asked to go into all the details of the complex Amendments to the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that last year when this Bill was under discussion the right hon. Gentleman appealed to the House to give him a chance, as he was newly in office. That Bill was criticised, and the right hon. Gentleman met the criticisms very well, and gave a good many pledges as to what he would do this year. A large number of those pledges had been redeemed, and, as a result, a number of Amendments were made in this Bill. But it was important that the Bill should be considered, because there were more matters to discuss than had appeared in the Army (Annual) Bill for twenty years. Was it right, under these circumstances, that it should be discussed so early in the morning? Even taking the convenience to Members for granted, there was something more to consider, and that was the life and liberty of the Army. Having regard to the circumstances he thought it would be reasonable on the part of the Government to accept the Motion and make arrangements to deal with the Committee stage of the Bill at a more reasonable hour.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) reminded the right hon. Gentleman that very far reaching changes were proposed in the Bill. For the first time in military history power was given to try a soldier by Court-martial, or by his commanding officer, for any loss sustained by negligence or some error on his part. On active service he was to be confined for aggravated drunkenness. To discuss such important points at half-past two in the morning was not treating his Majesty's Army in the way in which it ought to be treated by the House of Commons.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said the Secretary of State for War had not given them an opportunity of studying the Memorandum, which was absolutely necessary to a proper understanding of the Bill in Committee. If the discussion was to be properly conducted, Members should be thoroughly cognisant of all the intricate matters raised by the various clauses of the Bill. Might he remind the right hon. Gentleman also that something sinister occurred in connection with this famous Memorandum, which, he thought, reached hon. Members about four o'clock that afternoon? It reached the Vote Office some days ago, and he would like to know why it was not circulated.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that had nothing to do with the Motion before the House.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he was trying to show that the right hon. Gentleman, who alleged that he had consulted the convenience of the House by taking the Committee stage that night, had not consulted their convenience, because the document necessary to the proper discussion of the Bill in Committee had not been circulated.

*THE CHAIRMAN: What was done with the Memorandum in the Vote Office has nothing to do with the Motion before the House.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he was trying to show that the allegation of the right hon. Gentleman that he had consulted the convenience of the House was not borne out by his action, because it was necessary, if the convenience of the House was to be consulted, that the Paper to which he referred should have been earlier in the hands of hon. Members. Was it not a fact that in connection with the discussions in Committee a certain Memorandum had been practically suppressed?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have ruled that out of order.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he would go on to another point in connection with the matter. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had raised a point of the highest importance when the Bill was before the House on Monday last, and the Secretary for War had promised that it should be looked into. But in the document before the Committee there was nothing to show that he had looked into the question or to indicate what solution he offered on the point raised by the right hon. Baronet. He complained that the right hon. Gentleman should come down to the House at that time of the morning, pretending that the House, by going into Committee, would be able to do its duty by the armed forces of the Crown. He trusted, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision. If he persisted in proceeding, he was afraid that they would have a very long sitting.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) said they were not accustomed to discourtesy from the Minister for War; and he was extremely sorry that the right hon. Gentleman should have adopted such a tone towards the Committee in the half-dozen words which he had addressed to them. He had always looked upon the right hon. Gentleman as one of the most courteous Members of the Government, and he made his humble protest against the tone which he had adopted towards them, because they held that they had been extremely badly treated by the Government. They had just closured a measure which gave private Members an opportunity of raising important subjects.

*MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is not allowed to reflect on the action of the House in applying the closure. It is quite out of order.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said it was a great hardship that they should be asked, at nearly a quarter to three o'clock in the morning, to discuss this important Measure, which other Members had shown to be a genuinely important Bill containing a lot of new matter. Had the Government acted according to their promise they would have got the measure by that time, and it would not have been necessary to continue that discussion until breakfast time. He was afraid that the War Minister had been taking the advice of the Patronage Secretary, who liked bullying the House on these occasions. [Cries of "Order," and "Withdraw."]

*MR. CHAIRMAN: That is an offensive word to use.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said he would withdraw the word "bullying" and substitute the word "worrying." The Patronage Secretary once told them that they were obliged to sit because he had pledged himself to the Prime Minister that a certain measure should be got through. Was he pledged to the Prime Minister once more to get the Army Annual Bill through Committee, and were they to wait until the right hon. Gentleman arrived at nine o'clock in the morning, as he did on a former occasion after an all night sitting?

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY asked if the Patronage Secretary was going to give them any reason why he refused to allow them to report progress. [An

HON MEMBER: Because you are wasting time.] That was not a proper hour at which to discuss new matters. They intended to discuss this Bill as fully as possible in order that the quantity of discussion might make up for its lack of quality. He really thought the Patronage Secretary was exercising his powers of worrying the House to a considerable extent when he refused to explain why it was necessary to force that Bill through in that way. Already that evening an important measure had been forced through by the closure.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said that as the Government did not appear to recognise the desirability of reporting progress it had become his painful duty to add to the very cogent arguments which had already been set forth as to why they should report progress. From eleven to two o'clock they had been discussing a very important measure, and it was not possible at that late hour to give the Army (Annual) Bill that careful attention and critical analysis which a Bill of such importance demanded. He had not had time properly to study the Bill himself or the important Memorandum issued with it. There was absolutely no reason why the Bill should be forced through that night. He appealed to the Minister in charge of the Bill and the Patronage Secretary to consider whether, after last year's experience, it would be wise in the interests of the Army and of the House to force the Bill through at a time when it was not possible to subject it to proper scrutiny and criticism. The Procedure Rules and the Consolidated Fund Bill had been dealt with at that sitting, and surely that was a good day's work.

MR. COURTHOPE said they were being asked to make radical changes in the form of the Army (Annual) Act. They were changing the specified times when the Act should come into force in the British Colonies, and that was a matter which could not be properly discussed at that hour of the morning. Then there was an entirely different type of punishment being established, which was quite new, and, in the interests of justice to the soldier, they ought to have a full opportunity of discussing it.

Viscount Helmsley.

SIR F. BANBURY hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider the course he was going to take. He had introduced a new scheme, and the alterations proposed by the Bill were caused by that scheme. Hon. Members on that side of the House had received the scheme in a patriotic way, and they were anxious to give it every consideration. The Army (Annual) Bill did not need to be passed before the 30th of April, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to give a reasonable time for its consideration. There was a proposal in the Bill in regard to the billeting of soliders. That was a matter which would involve a certain burden on the rates.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is discussing the Bill. That is not in order on this Motion. I think I must also remind the hon. Gentleman of the Standing Order in regard to repetition.

SIR F. BANBURY said he did not wish either to discuss the Bill or to repeat himself. With all deference he submitted that he had not repeated himself.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Let me remind the hon. Baronet that the Standing Order also refers to the repetition of what has been said by other people.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) pointed out that the hon. Gentleman was not in the House when others were making their speeches.

SIR F. BANBURY said that owing to the lateness of the hour he was not in the House.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That has not the least connection with the matter. The hon. Member is much more likely to be guilty of repetition if he was not in the House.

SIR F. BANBURY said it was not through any fault of his that he was absent. The right hon. Gentleman would be well advised to take the management of the business of the House into his own hand, as had always been done by the senior Cabinet Minister present.

Mr. LANE-FOX strongly supported the Motion to report progress, on the ground that hon. Members had not had time to consider the details of the Memoranda which the Secretary of State for War had placed in their hands that afternoon and the Bill. That was not an hour when they could, with any prospect of credit to themselves, continue the discussion.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 196, Noes, 55. (Division List No. 51.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow,Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol,S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh,S.)
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E(Derbyshire,N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,William (Carnorvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King,Alfred John(Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal (T'peraryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H(Ashtonunder Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.

Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, JohnTudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
White, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A. E.
Corbett T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain Jas. (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (BuryS. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorge D.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 54; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 52.)

AYES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down,E
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt, Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hemsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F(BuryS.Edm'ds)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir BerkeleyGeorge D
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Barry,Redmond J (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon,T. A.

Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hn. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S.Pancras
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.SussexE. Grinst'd.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvon-sh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montague, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendall(Tipperry Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. F. (Wolver'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowland, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 190; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 53.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon

Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWmJ.(S.Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(SussexEGrinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol,S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank, (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, E. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montague, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E (Edinburgh,Central)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford,E)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhamp'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H(Ashton-under-Lyne)
Seely, Major J.B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon.Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.

Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Hills and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

Clause 2.

MR. CLAUDE HAY moved an Amendment to provide that the Act should come into force on the same day in all parts of the British Empire. He said he had authority for that proposal because it was moved in Committee of the Army (Annual) Bill in a previous year, and was supported by every right hon. Member now sitting on the Treasury Bench. He would be interested to hear how right hon. Gentlemen opposite would reconcile their present opposition with the support they accorded to the proposal on a former occasion when they sat up all night in their endeavour to force it through. If the Committee gave the matter a single thought they would see that in these days of telegraphs and telephones it was the easiest thing in the world to enact that the Act should come into force on April 30 in all parts of the Empire. Why they should say that it should come into force in Europe and Malta and in the West Indies and America and not elsewhere he could not conceive. The Government did not scruple to spend the money of the nation in telegraphing speeches of Members to distant parts, especially when they were calculated to have a highly mischievous effect. But in this case they had only to cable a single code word. He appealed with confidence to all Ministers to support the Amendment, because they could hardly go against the votes which they had previously recorded in its favour.

Amendment proposed

"In page 2, line 36, to leave out from the word 'the,' to the word 'one,' in line 37, and insert the words 'thirtieth day of April.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. HALDANE said the proposition was that the Bill should be sent all through the Empire, at any rate to a place like the West Indies, as he read the Amendment, by April 30. The Bill would not become law until a short time before April 30; it had to pass through the other House and receive the Royal Assent. What was the consequence? The hon. Member had spoken of sending out word that the Bill had passed. But they had to send out the whole text of the Bill, otherwise the unhappy troops would not know under what law they were. And the reason of the different dates in the Bill was to allow of copies of the Act being circulated.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said the Amendment was one of those which, if carried out, would do a great deal to simplify the law as regarded the Army. The law was very difficult for soldiers and civilians to understand. The Amendment dealt with one of those reforms which doubtless were small and therefore did not catch votes at elections, and it was for that reason they were left alone by successive War Ministers. The right hon. Gentleman had said it would not be possible to cable the Bill throughout the Empire by April 30, but he thought it would meet the views of hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House if the right hon. Gentleman would give them an assurance that a uniform date would be settled for the Bill to come into operation throughout the whole of the Empire. As it was at present, the Bill would come into operation in different places at different times—a circumstance which must lead to serious inconvenience. Another point was that if on a later clause a highly desirable Amendment was made, the dates put in the Bill would make it impossible for the reform to come into operation until the 31st July. It seemed to him that it would be much better, and much less likely to lead to trouble, inconvenience, and expense of cabling, if the Bill came into operation on the same day throughout the Empire. The right hon. Gentleman himself in the late Parliament voted for the alteration proposed; at any rate, some responsible members of His Majesty's Government had voted for it; and he thought the right hon. Gentleman should have given them some much better reasons for refusing now to consider a principle which his own Party had voted for such a comparatively short time ago. The reform which his hon. friend proposed was not wide and sweeping; it simplified the law as regarded the Army, and that was an exceedingly desirable reform. Even if he could not accept this Amendment, it was to be hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to propose an Amendment of his own which would bring the Act into force on the same day throughout the Empire.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said there were no less than three dates for the Bill's coming into operation in different parts of the Empire. In the United Kingdom it would come into operation on the 30th April; in Malta and the West Indies on the 31st July; and elsewhere on the 31st December. If on the 31st July certain troops were on voyage between Liverpool and the West Indies, it was obvious that they would be "elsewhere." They would not be in the United Kingdom, they would not be in the Channel Islands, and they would not have arrived at the West Indies; therefore they were "elsewhere." Under those circumstances, those particular troops would not have the law applicable to them until the 31st December. And the effect would be that when they got to the West Indies they would find that the other troops already there would have had the new law in operation on the 31st July, but that they, by reason of their having been "elsewhere," would not get the benefit of the new law until the 31st December—six months later. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to accept the Amendment. He thought it would be rather unreasonable to expect that the Bill should be telegraphed to all parts of the Empire by the 31st of April. But the right hon. Gentleman might compromise the matter by making the date the 31st July for all the Empire. By that date it might be possible to send a copy of the Act to the forces all over His Majesty's dominions, including even the Channel Islands and "elsewhere," and so bring the Act into operation on one and the same date.

Captain CRAIG said the Secretary of State did not deny that such an Amendment was desirable, but what he said was that it was impracticable. That did not appear to have occurred to the right hon. Gentleman two years ago when he voted for a similar Amendment. It was most important that the date on which the Army (Annual) Act came in force should be the same all over the Empire. Some very grave questions of military law might arise in consequence of the Amendments which had been made in the Act if it did not come into force in all the parts of the Empire at the same time.

Major COATES (Lewisham) said that one reason given by the Secretary of State for War why the Amendment could not be accepted was that it was impossible for the Bill to reach the various Colonies at the same time. So far as subsection (*b*) was concerned the Act was in force up to the 31st July, 1907, and surely that left them plenty of time to get a copy of the Act in Malta, the West Indies, and America.

Mr. COURTHOPE said that in the Bill subsection (*a*) classified the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man together, and in those places the Army Annual Act expired on the 30th April. In the Colonies it did not expire until the 31st July. He could show that for certain purposes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man were deemed to be Colonies, and——

*__The CHAIRMAN__: That question does not arise under this Amendment.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL (Dublin University) said that surely, in considering whether the clause should be amended or not, it was in order to point out that there was a glaring inaccuracy.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Rye has a new clause raising the point, and when we reach that it will be the right time to raise this point.

MR. COURTHOPE said it would be a matter of convenience that the Act for all purposes should come into operation on the same day in all parts of the Empire.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY asked for an expression of opinion as to whether it was not really desirable that the Bill should come into operation in every part of the Empire on the same day. None of the objections which had hitherto been raised against that proposal had much validity. If one day was unsuitable on account of telegraphic limitations another day might be found which would be perfectly suitable for all parts of the Empire. He did not think there was much in the argument that it was impossible to telegraph the Bill to the Colonies. There had been many instances of the reckless way in which the Government had telegraphed more or less useless information, and if they wanted to make economies in telegraphic charges he would suggest that it might be done by a readjustment of the matter which they thought it necessary to transmit.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR appealed to the Secretary of State for War to answer the arguments which had been addressed to him. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman had quite realised how valuable the penny post might be to the War Office. If a uniform date had been selected there would have been no need to cable the matter at all; the penny post could have been used. He had preferred the old and more cumbersome method. That was thoroughly in accordance with the traditions of the War Office and the profession which the right hon. Gentleman adorned. He believed there was no other statute passed in recent years which came into operation on different dates in different portions of the Empire.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said the conditions under which soldiers served should be uniform. If the Amendment was not adopted the conditions would be very diverse, and that would not conduce to the efficiency of the Army. The soldiers should be allowed to have like privileges on the same day.

MR. MACVEAGH: Hear, hear! We will make it the first of April.

MR. CARLILE said that even at the risk of appearing to differ from some of the alleged improvements to which the right hon. Gentleman attached so much importance, they thought that soldiers in every part of the Empire should have the same privileges. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to bring the proposed alterations, many of them of a most serious character, into operation on a series of dates—in some cases three months hence, and in others nine months. It was a most important matter, and he and his friends would certainly go into the Division lobby in support of the reasonable proposal of his hon. friend. They were determined that this matter should be thoroughly discussed. They did not consider the labour or the personal inconvenience to which they would be submitted; in fact they rather liked it.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Gentleman was not in order in the line of argument he was pursuing.

MR. CARLILE said he thanked the Chairman very much for his guidance; but he appealed to the Chairman to protect him from the interruptions of hon. Members opposite. [Cries of "Divide."] The same consideration as to treatment ought to be given to our soldiers all over the Empire.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) desired to join in the appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to reply to the arguments which had been addressed to him. The debate began with a very courteous intimation from the right hon. Gentleman that hon. Members had come under the sinister influence of the Chief Whip!

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was entirely irrelevant in his remarks, and he hoped that he would refrain from a repetition of those imputations.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he only wished to repeat the appeal to the right hon. Gentleman that he would answer the arguments addressed to him; otherwise the Committee proceedings would be reduced to a mere farce. They were perfectly entitled to hear from the right hon. Gentleman some explanation of——

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Gentleman was entirely out of order, and he must withdraw the expression about the sinister influence of the Chief Whip.

MR. L. L. CORBETT said that he withdrew the remark, but he must insist that he and his friends had been subjected to interruptions from below the gangway.

MR. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 183; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 54.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W.(Tower H'mlets,S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J.(S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H.(Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.

Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.Sir Alex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down, E.
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorgeD.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Meysey-Thompson and Sir William Bull.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 183; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 55.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt. Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey

Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh,Jeremiah(Down, S.)
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John

Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.

Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Ches.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C. W.
Coates,E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd

Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)

Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield,Sir Berkeley GeorgeD.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E. R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Viscount Turnour and Mr. Claude Hay.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That the Clause stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That the Clause stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 182; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 56.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy

Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton

Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.

Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauhamp, E.
Benn,W.(T'w'r' H'mlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H. (Sussex,E.Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of.
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Hon.,S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Goeffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partingdon, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson,W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards,T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick,B.)
Shipman, Dr. John. G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley,John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hon.VictorC.W.
Coates,E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F. W.F(BuryS.Edmd's
Hills, J. W.

Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorge D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col, R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Castlereagh and Mr. Harmood-Banner.

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 57.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig,Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt. Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W. E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price,C. E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea,Walter Russell(Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)

Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E, Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley Geo. D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Williams, Col. R (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. William Nicholson and Mr. Walrond.

Clause 3 :—

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved the insertion of the words "good and sufficient" to describe the accommodation to be provided by the Army victuallers. The accommodation provided might be good, bad or indifferent, but according to this Clause, whatever the accommodation was it had got to be paid for in accordance with the prices specified in the Act. The answer which had on a former occasion been given to the Amendment was that there were penalties which could be imposed upon a licensed victualler if he failed to provide proper accommodation. Parliament ought to take care when proposing to give more ample payment for this provision that the accommodation should be good, and——

MR. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the question that the Clause stand part of the Bill." [OPPOSITION cries of "Monstrous!" and "Gag!"]

THE CHAIRMAN: The Question is, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD speaking seating and covered, raised a point of order. He said that his Amendment had been proposed, and therefore, if the Secretary for War were in order in moving the closure at all, it must be the closure on the Amendment, and not on the clause. He submitted that the right hon. Gentleman had no right to move such a Motion as that which he had proposed. He contended that the Question that Clause 3 be added to the Bill could not be put under the Rules of the House. Under the Standing Orders the only point that could be put when the closure was accepted was the question before the House.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the proceedings were regular. No question had been put from the Chair when the closure was moved.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I had been called on to move my Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That makes no difference. It is in my discretion to accept the closure, and the fact that the hon. Member had been called upon does not affect it at all. [OPPOSITION cries of "Gag!"]

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: On the point of order, Sir. Do I understand that you in your discretion think that Clause 3 has been sufficiently debated?

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member cannot put a point of order to me now. [OPPOSITION cries of "Why not?" and "Gag, gag!"]

Question put, "That the Question 'That the Clause stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 181; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 58.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W.(T'w'rH'mlets,S.Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancr's,W.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJhn.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies,Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd. John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea,Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards,T. F. (Wolverh'mptn)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim, S.)
Stanley,Hn. A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor,Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carm'rth'n)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. VictorC. W.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Craig, Captain James(Down,E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F(BuryS.Edm'ds)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E.(Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Major Coates.

Question put accordingly.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY: On a point of order. Do I understand that it is your ruling that you accept the closure for any of the clauses of the Bill without their being discussed?

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question of accepting the closure is passed, but as a matter of courtesy to the noble Lord I will frankly explain that I considered the Amendments were of rather a frivolous nature, and that the clause has been passed in the same form year after year.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 181; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 59.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. HnHerbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles.(Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter

Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearson, W.H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES,—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Mr. Lonsdale.

Clause 4 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

*MR. FORSTER moved that progress be reported. They had, he said, been discussing the Bill for three hours, and he could not help thinking that in all the circumstances they would, by adjourning, do the best thing to preserve the credit of the House, of the Army, of the Government, and of all parties concerned. The discussion should be adjourned until it could be resumed when their feelings were less strong and excited, more especially when they were coming to a new and controversial clause.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

MR. HALDANE said that this was an absolutely necessary Bill which must pass now. It was part of the machinery of the Army. The regrettable practice had grown up of discussing the Bill at length; but the duty of the Minister in charge was clear: he must get his Bill. Therefore on behalf of the Government he should resist the Motion.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said that the Secretary of State for War talked as if the Bill were a matter of urgency, whereas it was not necessary to pass it before the 30th of April. He thought the right hon. Gentleman did not understand the gravamen of the charge the Opposition had to make against the Government and the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury in taking the Consolidated Fund Bill before this Bill. He would say without fear of contradiction that had this Bill come on immediately after eleven o'clock it would have been passed through Committee by one or two o'clock. The Committee must remember that when the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill was taken after closure, many of them on that side of the House were prevented from criticising it.

*THE CHAIRMAN called the noble Lord to order, stating that he had already ruled that the hon. Member must not reflect on the action of the Committee in accepting the closure.

*VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said that he was not reflecting on the action of the Committee, but on the conduct of the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury in bringing forward the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I must again call the hon. Member to order.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said that it was owing to the Patronage Secretary having brought forward the Bill that evening that the House found itself unable to deal with it in a proper manner. The Committee on the motion of the Secretary for War accepted the closure——

*THE CHAIRMAN. I again call the noble Lord to order. He is reflecting once more on the decision of the Committee, and he is not entitled to do that. I must request the noble Lord to carry out my ruling.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY thought the Chairman had failed to recognise the point he was endeavouring to make. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Order!" and "Name."] He was not in the least reflecting on the decision the Committee had come to. But he was pointing out that the decision having been come to, and the Committee being in the mood to closure every clause, it was perfectly impossible to discuss with advantage the remaining portions of the Bill. In these circumstances he thought that the discussion should be postponed and progress reported.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) supported the motion to report progress on the ground that the proceedings had been reduced to a farce mainly by the action of hon. Members opposite. On two or three occasions that night hon. Members opposite had voted in direct opposition to the votes they gave on similar Amendments two years ago. That was a first-class example of Radical inconsistency.

*THE CHAIRMAN : What has that got to do with the Motion before the House, which is that I report progress ?

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said he was endeavouring to show that the discussion should be adjourned because it was impossible that the Bill could be properly debated in view of the action of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He repeated that the proceedings of the Committee, owing to the action of hon. Gentlemen opposite, had been reduced to a pure farce. Hon. Gentlemen opposite would doubtless attempt to throw the blame on his colleagues and himself, and say that they were prolonging the debate unnecessarily. But the excuse was as absurd as it was transparent. Moreover, at an earlier stage in the proceedings, an hon. Member on that side of the House appealed to the Chairman for protection, and was informed that it was not to be expected in a long sitting like that that an hon. Member should receive a quiet hearing. For himself he regarded the proceedings that night as disgraceful.

*THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is not correctly stating what I said. I said that in a long sitting of this kind there was always a certain amount of interruption. I never said that it was impossible for an hon. Member to get a quiet hearing.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said he apologised for misrepresenting what the Chairman had said. He had only adduced the remarks of the Chairman as a reason why the Motion of his hon. friend should be accepted. He would appeal to hon. Members below him if they had a sense of humour to see the absurdity of the situation. The Government Benches were crammed with Members who in each successive division piously and dutifully reversed their own votes. He should think that under those circumstances, seeing the length of time that they had been attempting to discuss the Bill and the way in which every reasonable attempt on their part to do so had been met by a Motion of the right hon. Gentleman to gag them——

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order!

MR. CHARLES CRAIG apologised and said he was only alluding to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman always successfully moved the closure, and he thought that he ought now to accede to the request of hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House and agree to the Motion to report progress. He was sure if they were allowed then to disperse that on the next occasion when the Bill came before the Committee, provided it was at a reasonable hour of the day, he would have little difficulty in getting the remaining clauses of the Bill through.

MR. STANLEY WILSON rose to continue the discussion, but was received with loud cries of "Divide!"

MR. T. L. CORBETT wished to endorse the complaint which his hon. friend had made. He could not hear what was said because of the shouts and insults from the Nationalist Benches. [Loud cries of "Order!"]

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has no right to use the word "insults." [Loud cries of "But they are!"]

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he would withdraw the word on the Chairman's direction, but added that no Parliamentary word would describe what they in that portion of the House had heard.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do appeal to hon. Members to be as quiet as possible, and perhaps I may appeal to hon. Members who are doing most of the speaking not to provoke interruptions.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said he had not the slightest intention of provoking any interruption. He was exceedingly disappointed with the temper of the House, and to see that the temper of the War Minister grew shorter as the hours rolled on. He welcomed the presence of the Patronage Secretary and he earnestly hoped that the hon. Gentleman and the Secretary for War had arrived at the decision that they would allow them to have a few hours rest. He could not understand the hurry to pass this measure. Passions had been excited and were rising to a great height. Another reason why they should adjourn was that the First Commissioner of Works had gone home to bed and left all the windows open. The rooms of the House were not in a fit state for any hon. Member to occupy, and he was already suffering from a cold in consequence of the draughts. He had been to the dining-room to get some supper and the draught there was so great that it was almost impossible to sit in the room. It might be all very well for hon. Members below the gangway to go into it, because it might cool their tempers and it would be an excellent way of improving the situation if they could get rid of them. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to re-consider his decision.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD said he appealed to the Secretary of State for War, not in the excitable tones of some of the recent speeches, but in the light of the coming dawn and in cooler tones to give way to reason and common sense. The discussion that night did not deal entirely with the existing position, because in the future the Army that they would have to deal with would be the Territorial Army which the right hon. Gentleman was endeavouring to create. Did not the right hon. Gentleman think that if that Army was going to be a great force in the country a certain amount of coaxing would be necessary to induce men to join it? Would the Army think they had been fairly dealt with when this Bill was considered between 2.30 and five in the morning? That was a point the right hon. Gentleman ought to consider. It was not only the existing soldier that he ought to regard, it was the soldier of the future, the man to whom he was looking for his Territorial Army. Did the right hon. Gentleman think that when the soldier saw that his welfare, his future, and his discipline were laughed at in the House, he was likely to come forward as a willing recruit?

Mr. LANE-FOX said one justification for moving to report progress was that on a former occasion when the Army (Annual) Bill was under discussion, a similar Motion was made at the instance of the President of the Board of Trade, seconded by the President of the Board of Education, and supported by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies. As the example then set had led to the Treasury Bench it was an example they might well follow.

Mr. J. MACVEAGH: It will never lead you there.

Mr. LANE-FOX said the promise made at an earlier period by the right hon. Gentleman that he would give fair consideration to all the points raised had not been kept. He did not believe for a moment that the hon. Gentleman intended to go back on what he had said, but he thought that had the right hon. Gentleman fulfilled his pledge the debate would have gone more smoothly and have come to a conclusion earlier. At that stage of the morning it was impossible to deal with the controversial questions which would come before the Committee and therefore he strongly supported the Motion to report progress.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 182; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 60.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W.(T'wrHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H. (Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, Hon. W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire,NE
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)

Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley,W.E.B .(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton,David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. VictorC.W.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edmd's
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorgeD.
Starkey, John R
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Valentia and Mr Forster.

Question put accordingly, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 45; Noes, 182. (Division List No. 61.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlexF.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, SirBerkeleyGeorgeD.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,A.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Lenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jhn.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Centr'l
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, T. F. (Wolverham'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Question again proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that Clause 4 was practically in the nature of a new clause. He noticed that there were on the Paper Amendments to earlier clauses and he wished to know if they would be excluded from discussion by the taking of Clause 4 now.

*The CHAIRMAN: We cannot go back on the clauses of the Bill, but we can go back on the clauses of the Army Annual Act.

Viscount TURNOUR moved to omit the clause, in order to give the right hon. Gentleman an opportunity of explaining its operation. The clause proposed to amend the 43rd section of the Army Annual Act by inserting after the words "to the prescribed General Officer" the words "or in the case of a soldier serving in India to such officer as the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in India with the approval of the Governor-General of India in Council may appoint." His objection to the clause was that it was better, more especially in India, that a private soldier should know exactly to whom he was to apply in case he had a grievance or a complaint to make against anybody. They did not make the matter simpler by making such changes in the Army Act at that hour of the morning, and it would be much better understood by the soldier if the Act remained as it was before. This was more important in a hot climate like India. He appealed to the Secretary of State for War to consider whether he could not dispense with the clause altogether. Unless the right hon. Gentleman was able to give him some satisfactory explanation he hoped the Committee would reject to clause.

Mr. HALDANE explained that the purpose of the clause was to redress a very real grievance which experience had shown that soldiers in India suffered from. In India, where the brigade organisation was used, brigades were often far away from the headquarters of the Army. A general officer was not always accessible. A brigadier had only in the eye of the law a colonel's rank, and it was found necessary in the case of soldiers serving in India to give them the right of making their complaints to such officers. It was to help the soldier and not to hinder him that this provision was being introduced into the Act.

Mr. ASHLEY asked whether it would not be a good thing to extend the provision to South Africa also.

Mr. HALDANE replied in the negative.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the clause provided the right of appeal to the "prescribed general officer." The definition clause stated that the word "prescribed" meant prescribed by any rules of procedure under the Act. It was, therefore, competent for rules of procedure to be made prescribing the officer to whom the complaints might be addressed. If there was that elasticity existing now, why should they make an exception for India as against all the other territorial forces of the Crown?

Mr. HALDANE said a brigadier was not a general officer. The prescribed officer meant a general officer holding a general officer's rank.

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill.

The Committee proceeded to a Division.

Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Joseph Pease were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but, no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 5:—

Mr. ASHLEY moved to substitute the word "detention" for the word "imprisonment." He imagined that the right hon. Gentleman would be willing to accept that Amendment.

Mr. HALDANE said that so far as the legal consequences were concerned, it did not very much matter which word was used. He would accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD thought the Committee were entitled to some explanation as to why Section 46, sub-section 6, of the Army Act should be altered. On referring to that sub-section it was found that in certain cases a soldier who was accused had the right to demand, when being tried, that the evidence should be taken on oath. He would have thought that in every case where a soldier was being tried for any crime the evidence should be taken on oath without the prisoner being put to the trouble of demanding that it should be so taken. He thought that the effect of the clause, if passed, would be that whenever an officer had a right to inflict summary punishment upon a soldier, he might take evidence without administering the oath.

MR. HALDANE said he could assure hon. Members that the effect of the Amendment would be for the benefit of the soldier. At present it was only where a commanding officer had power summarily to impose a sentence which exceeded seven days imprisonment that the accused had a right to demand that the evidence should be taken on oath. The right of the accused to have evidence taken on oath would now apply to all cases.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR suggested that the words "summarily" should be left out altogether.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member could not propose to amend the clause after the question had been put "that the clause stand part of the Bill."

MR. HALDANE wished to repeat that the clause as it stood was really in favour of the soldier.

MR. ASHLEY said he entirely agreed with the right hon. Gentleman. As a company officer he had often to distinguish between evidence given on oath, and that given without the administration of an oath.

Question, put, and agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

MR. ASHLEY moved an Amendment to limit the clause to military and naval prisoners and not to include within its operation, as the Bill proposed, civilians who might happen to be in a prison which was being used as a military prison. For instance, supposing a civilian inadvertently entered one of the ports of the Isle of Wight, he might be taken to the military prison under the clause, and that might be extremely undesirable.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 36, to leave out the word 'other,' and insert the word 'naval.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'other' stand part of the Clause."

MR. HALDANE said that the hon. Member was quite right in supposing that the clause would cover naval as well as military prisoners; but it was always possible that they might have to use these military prisons for other prisoners, and he pointed out that the section in the Army Act giving power to the Secretary of State to make rules was for the good administration of the prisons.

MR. ASHLEY said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the words were settled by the naval and military authorities, but had he consulted the civilian authorities? What circumstances had happened since last year to make it necessary to bring within the scope of the Bill civilians as well as military and naval prisoners?

LORD BALCARRES also thought that the point in regard to dealing with civilian prisoners should be considered. The right hon. Gentleman in his Amendment specifically proposed to substitute for the words "military prisoners" the words "military or other prisoners," and he told them that that was to apply the Act to naval prisoners as well as military prisoners. He dared say the naval authorities might be desirous that some such alteration should be made, but as the clause stood it applied to civilians, and he submitted that the right hon. Gentleman had not made out a case for such a course.

MR. HALDANE said that if the hon. Gentleman would look at Section 133 of the Army Act he would see that it was made lawful for the Secretary of State in this country and the Governor-General in India to take over an existing prison and declare it to be a military prison. When he did so there might be people in it who were not military prisoners, and the power of making rules given by Section 6 was in the interests of the prisoners who happened to be in the prison. The section did not extend the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State, but it was introduced for the protection of any prisoners, civilian or otherwise, who might be found in the building which was being used or part of which was being used as a military prison.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR thought that they had got some very valuable facts out of the right hon. Gentleman for the first time. He had suspected from the form of words used, "military or other prisoners," that it was intended to include not only naval prisoners but also civilian prisoners, and the right hon. Gentleman had said that that was the case. He did not think, however, that it should fall upon the military authorities, either here or in India, to take charge of civilian prisoners. Were they to understand that this sort of thing had taken place in the past, and that when these civilian prisoners were taken over they would come under military discipline, under the control of the military authorities?

MR. HALDANE said the power was given to the Secretary of State in this country and the Governor-General in India, but it was not given to the military authorities. It was thought wise that the Secretary of State and the Governor-General should have power to make rules which should apply to civilians who were in a building or part of a building which was being used as a military prison. The power was only given for the protection of the prisoners who happened to be in a prison so taken over, though it was a very unlikely case to arise.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said the side heading of the section was to the effect that it applied to rules relating to military prisons and prisoners. He understood from that, that it referred to military prisoners only, but now it appeared that they were to understand that civilians would be incarcerated in military prisons.

MR. HALDANE said the power was given to make rules for the good government of the prison. It was a general power of regulation in the interests of good order, and it was meant to apply to all places which were used as military prisons. It might be that civil prisoners were in portions of the building used as military prisons, and therefore it was desirable to extend the powers of making rules in regard to them.

LORD TURNOUR said he still wished to know why that was the case. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that civilian prisoners might come under the military authorities. He therefore hoped that the Amendment would be divided upon.

MR. HALDANE said there was nothing in the clause which enabled a civilian to be imprisoned in a building which was used as a military prison. The provision was only put in to provide for the case in which part of the building was used for military prisoners while a part might be used for civilian prisoners. It was to enable rules to be made for the good government of the whole of the people in the prison and was for the protection of the whole of the people there.

LORD BALCARRES said he must repeat his question. He wanted to know what necessity there was for dealing with civilians in military prisons at all. The words of the section were "military or other prisoners." That covered the case of the naval prisoners clearly, but they now understood that it covered such civilians as might be in the neighbourhood transgressing the law and were put into the gaol. Would the right hon. Gentleman tell the Committee frankly what was the cause for these regulations. Had there been any rising or any undue amount of trespass during the last twelve months? Was there any reason for these provisions? The right hon. Gentleman had not, so far, given a single reason for them

MR. HALDANE thought he could explain. A prison might be a civil prison, or it might be a part of a civil prison, or it might be a military prison. If it were part of a public civil prison it was very desirable to have certain rules which could be applied to any military prisoner who might at any time be in that prison. It was in the interest of the prisoners themselves that rules should be made. It was certainly desirable that the Governor-General of India or the Secretary of State should be able to make rules.

MR. ASHLEY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman suggested that the Governor-General was not able to make rules for his own prisoners. He certainly did not see why the military authority should make rules for and look after civil prisoners. Let the civilian authority look after civilian prisoners and the military authority after the military prisoners.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the case put before the Committee by the right hon. Gentleman had to his mind proved the case for the Amendment. When they turned to the Act itself they found that the power was to make rules for the regulation of military prisons and for the military prisoners therein. It was not proposed to alter the words "military prisoners," but to make it "military and other prisoners." What the Amendment did was to make it clear that the prison to which these rules should apply was for military and naval prisoners. The right hon. Gentleman said that the military prison might be part of a civil prison, and in that case they desired to make provisions that should apply to the whole building. But if that were the case, and the Act showed that it could only apply to military and naval prisons, it was perfectly clear that it could not apply to the rest of the building. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that there might be other prisoners there. If either by accident or by a wrong act there was a civilian prisoner in the military part of the prison it was suggested that these regulations should apply to him. He appealed to hon. Members to look at the matter intelligently and vote for the Amendment in order to make it quite clear that no civilian should be subjected to any punishment or any regulation whatever except those applicable to civilians.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said that from Section 133 it appeared to be quite possible that a building might be created a prison for temporary purposes, or that a part of a building might be taken, and also that part of a civil prison could be taken as a military prison. It followed that a civil prison might be partly a military prison, and if an unfortunate prisoner found himself inside the right hon. Gentleman's compound he would be subjected to all the pains and penalties of the Army Act, including flogging. If hon. Members carefully followed the Amendment they would see that its real object was to insure that civil prisoners should be immediately handed over to the civil authority and not detained under the regulations of this clause in a military prison. The right hon. Gentleman had been pressed very fairly by several speakers on the Unionist side to explain the more or less vague statement he made in the first instance. The right hon. Gentleman had failed to explain to the Committee why he proposed to impose this harsh treatment on civilians. It was quite true, as had been pointed out, that at times naval and military men might find themselves in military prisons, but no reason for this sweeping change had been given. If the clause as proposed by the Secretary for War were carried, it would lead possibly to far more dangerous practices than would appear from the more or less innocuous words by which it was altered. In the clause as it originally stood, the words "not exceeding twenty-five lashes," and so on, had been struck out, but still one could see what a serious clause it was. It might be that a civilian unwittingly trespassed on some military ground or fortification, and innocently became a prisoner. The Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman created a distinction between two rooms in a fortification. If the civil prisoner remained on the military side of the prison within the fortification his punishment was not to be more severe than it would be in a public prison under the Act of

1879. If the prisoner was transferred to the other or civil side of the prison, they put upon the Army the cost of maintaining him in the first instance. He certainly thought his hon. friend had made out a strong case, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to make the small concession asked for. During the whole time the Bill had been under discussion the right hon. Gentleman had only made one small concession; he hoped, therefore, that in this instance he would give way, where it was not a question of broad principle but one of making the plan of the right hon. Gentleman workable.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY moved to report progress in order to call attention to the absence of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE CHAIRMAN, being of opinion that the Motion was an abuse of the Rules of the House, declined to propose the Question thereupon to the Committee.

Question put, "That the word 'other' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided: Ayes, 171; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 62.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of

Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes

Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, David
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James

Captain Craig.

Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James

Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)

Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease,

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Dalrymple, Viscount

Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'd
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert

Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Ashley and Captain Craig.

Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 175; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 63.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W. (T'w'r' Hamlets, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W
Cooper, G. J.
Cooper, G. J.

Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol S.)
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)

Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Doald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)

Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hervey, F. W. F.(BuryS.Edmd's
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sheffield, Sir BerkeleyGeorgeD.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Viscount Helmsley.

Clause 7 :—

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 173; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 64.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. N.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth
Collins, Sir W. J. (S.PancrasW.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)

Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon. S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh Jeremiah (Down, S.)
McVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, T.F. (Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. L.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, W. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. D.R. (Dorset, H.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Rowland Hunt and Sir William Bull.

Clause 8 :—

Mr. ASHLEY moved the omission of the word "meal" in order to substitute the word "meals." Although his Amendment might not appear very important, he believed that it was. In the schedule to the Army Act it was stated that where a prisoner was not provided with candles, vinegar, and other things, he was to be given "a hot meal." The Amendment was necessary to make the clause consistent with the Schedule.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 6, to leave out the word 'meal' and insert the words 'meals.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'meal' stand part of the Question."

Mr. HALDANE explained that the Amendment was made in the Bill in order to carry out the purpose of the clause, and to enable them when they came to the schedule to distribute meals, a distinction being drawn between hot and cold meals.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the explanation was a very specious one, as the alteration was inconsistent with other words in the Act where a provision was found to the effect that a soldier should be served with breakfast, dinner, and supper on each day, such meals to consist of such and such quantities of food and drink. It was obvious that it ought to be such "meals," because it was not "meal" in the sense of ground oats. As breakfast, dinner, and supper were included it ought to be "meals." That seemed to him to be a matter of common-sense. It seemed, however, too much to expect common-sense in Parliamentary practice, especially at that time of the day, but he would urge the right hon. Gentlemen as a matter of English grammar to accept the suggestion which was made by this Amendment.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said the meaning of the Amendment was perfectly clear and obvious, but he thought that it was clear that the Committee was not in a fit condition to go on discussing it. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Speak for yourself!"] He thought hon. and right hon. Gentlemen would do very much better to go home, take a rest and then come back with a fresh mind so that they might be able to appreciate the clear and obvious argument which was now reasonably addressed to them, and make the Bill easy and intelligible, as it ought to be. That was the only object which the supporters of the Amendment had in view.

MR. HALDANE said the whole confusion had arisen from the hon. Member looking at the second paragraph of the section instead of at the third. If the hon. Member would turn to page 31 in the book which had been furnished to him he would see that that was so.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA (Oxford) pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman was looking at the memorandum and not at the Bill. At present they were on Clause 8, which dealt with the question of "a hot meal," or a "meal."

MR. HALDANE invited the noble Lord to look at the third paragraph.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA said he was looking at the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman referred him to a printed memorandum, not to that paragraph in the Bill itself.

MR. COURTHOPE thought the right hon. Gentleman was mistaken. It was a small matter, but Clause 8 of the Bill cut out the word "a," when all he wished to cut out was the word "hot."

MR. HALDANE said that he agreed on that point.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR asked whether in view of the little mistake which had just been exposed, it would not be better, having regard to the danger of a considerable mistake being made during one of the comic interludes of the hon. Member for South Down, to wait until the House was in a fresher and fitter condition to deal with the matter?

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not speaking to the Amendment before the House.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said he was about to ask the Chairman's permission to move that he should report progress and ask leave to sit again.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot accept that. I would merely point out that if the word "a" is to be retained, the hon. Member will have to withdraw his Amendment, and then the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War can move to substitute the words "a meal" for "a hot meal."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The word "a" inserted before "meal."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said he did not quite understand the alteration made in the Bill by this clause. He could not see that there was any great difference between the old clause and the new one as amended, and he would be glad if the

Secretary of State would point out exactly what the difference was. He should like to take this opportunity of called attention to the fact that during the whole of the debate they had not been honoured with the presence of either the Prime Minister or the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is not in order.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, speaking on a point of order, said the Amendment which had been accepted was to insert the word "a." He understood that the right hon. Gentleman proposed to leave out the word "hot."

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have put the Question that the clause as amended stand part of the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the word "hot" was still in the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The word "hot" is taken out.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he wished to be very respectful to the Chair in raising points of order, but he understood that the phrase in the original Act was "a hot meal," and it had been practically decided by the Committee that the words should be "a meal." Therefore all they wanted was to leave out the word "hot." The word "a" did not want to be added because it was already there.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is confusing two matters which are quite distinct. In line 6 the Committee have agreed to insert before the word "meal" the word "a."

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said the House had yet had any explanation of what the Amendment really meant.

MR. HALDANE said the schedule must be read with the clause. If the schedule was looked at the whole thing became plain. It was impossible to understand it without. In future the soldier was to have three meals instead of one. It would not be clear until they reached the schedule.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR, on a point of order, asked whether an opportunity would be given, having regard to the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, to discuss this clause with the schedule; otherwise it was admitted it was impossible to understand it.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the schedule in question was a schedule of the Army Act.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR: No, the schedule referred to is the schedule of this Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the schedule would come under discussion when it was reached. He did not quite understand what the noble Lord desired. The schedule could be discussed at the proper time and proper Amendments moved.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said he desired to know whether an opportunity would be given to discuss this clause when the schedule was reached. The Secretary of State had said it was impossible to discuss the clause properly until the schedule was reached.

*THE CHAIRMAN thought that in a case of this kind hon. Members would be in order when discussing the schedule to refer to this clause.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA asked, as they were now on the clause and not on the schedule, whether it would not be possible to discuss the schedule now.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he was sorry the Committee did not appear to understand what he had said. When the schedule came up for discussion the Committee could refer to this clause.

CAPTAIN CRAIG understood that when they came to the schedule it would be in order to couple with it Clause 8 which was now under discussion. He wished to ask whether now, while all the facts of Clause 8 were present in the mind of the Committee, they could now refer to the schedule so as to discuss it with Clause 8.

*THE CHAIRMAN said it would not be out of order to refer to the alterations in the schedule if hon. Members desired to do so in the discussion on this clause, but he did not think the schedule ought to be discussed in detail at that point.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said the original point of order arose from his asking the right hon. Gentleman to explain the clause. The Secretary of State said it was impossible to understand the clause without reading the schedule with it. Then Mr. Chairman's ruling was that it was not in order to discuss the schedule with the clause. All he desired to know was whether the right hon. Gentleman would give the explanation now or wait until the schedule was discussed.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 173; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 65.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Black, Arthur W.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. S. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hn. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin (Walsall.
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R
Ffrench, Peter

Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hn. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Menzies, Walter
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morrell, Philip

Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)

White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (C'rmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Fell and Viscount Dalrymple.

Clause 9:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

Viscount TURNOUR said he desired to call attention to the method of legislating which this clause illustrated. It repealed the whole of the clause which was in the Bill of last year, referring to the system of detention. That system the right hon. Gentleman at the time had eulogised as one which was likely to do a considerable amount of good so far as military prisons were concerned. It was, therefore, very important, before the clause was passed, that they should have some explanation from the right hon. Gentleman as to the reasons which had led him to repeal Section 135a, which was passed in only last year's Army Act. He imagined that the right hon. Gentleman, after his strong speech last year in support of that very section, must have equally strong reasons now for repealing it.

Mr. HALDANE said Section 135a had not been in reality repealed, and it was still in the Bill in another form, because every bit of it had been woven into the schedules.

Lord BALCARRES observed that the section was no longer in place because it was so carelessly drafted that after twelve months' experience the right hon. Gentleman had been obliged to withdraw it.

Viscount TURNOUR said he was bound to say that it was a most slipshod way of legislating. There was no explanation of the clause at all in the memorandum.

Mr. HALDANE: Yes, it is explained.

Mr. CAVE said the memorandum stated that—

> "The Amendments made under Section 9 of the Bill are of a purely drafting and verbal character."

It was impossible to follow all the very elaborate changes in the schedule in the Bill itself. Could the right hon. Gentleman give the Committee an assurance that no changes proposed to be made in the schedule were of a really substantial character? As regarded Section 2 of Clause 9 it repealed Section 135a of the Army Act, and that was a very important matter, because it dealt with the detention of prisoners before trial. Could the right hon. Gentleman give shortly to the Committee the effect of the changes made by Section 9?

Mr. HALDANE said that last year detention was substituted for imprisonment in the case of all minor offences, and in that way the soldier's record was made a better one. The object of Clause 9 was simply to make the detailed amendments in the Army Act necessary to give effect to last year's changes. They were all drafting Amendments which introduced nothing beyond what was proposed last year. He was not sure whether the hon. and learned Member was aware that under the Army Annual Act there was a clause which compelled the reprinting of the Army Annual Act from time to time together with the Amendments. That was a statutory obligation. It would be placed in the Library this year as soon as they got it into shape.

Mr. CAVE said that on page 9 of the Bill there was a long Clause printed to be substituted for Section 63. Was there any substantial change in the new form of the Clause as compared with the old section.

Mr. HALDANE: No. It is a change only in form, not in substance.

Captain CRAIG thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the explanation he had given, because it was exceedingly difficult to find out whether there had been any substantial change or not. He was inclined to think that as the Clause had become so well known in the ranks of the Army the right hon. Gentleman would be running a great risk of placing more upon the officers than they would be able to comprehend by making these constant changes in the Act. The Secretary of State for War came before the Committee, and in order to enable him to carry out his general scheme he asked them to reverse in every particular what he so vehemently urged them last year to adopt. Those who had any experience in dealing with the intricacies of the Army Act would appreciate what he had said. The new Clause was not so clearly expressed as the old one.

Mr. COURTHOPE said there was no provision made for dealing with a person whom the commanding officer had sentenced to imprisonment. He thought that was a material omission. He suggested that words should be introduced in order to make that matter clear.

*Mr. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) understood that the right hon. Gentleman intended to substitute "detention" for "imprisonment" and that the fact of a soldier having undergone "detention" would not be mentioned in his discharge. He thought it would be very hard that soldiers who had already been discharged should be placed at a disadvantage as compared with soldiers who would be discharged in future in consequence of this Amendment. There was great difficulty at present in obtaining employment in civil life for old soldiers, but this change would increase it, by destroying the confidence of the public in the accuracy and honesty of the discharge.

*The CHAIRMAN: I do not see how this arises on the Question, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

Viscount TURNOUR said the Royal Commission on the employment of reserve soldiers and sailors reported that the present system of marking on soldiers' discharges the amount of imprisonment they had undergone, and the bad conduct marks they had had during their term of service, was not a good one. He wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the new system of "detention" which had had a year's trial had been approved by general officers in charge of districts and other soldiers holding high rank, and also whether the working of it had been beneficial to the discipline of the Army. Was the use of the word "detention" in the case of soldiers who competed for employment in civil life with other soldiers who had actually undergone terms of "imprisonment" likely to place the latter at a disadvantage?

Mr. CARLILE appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to answer the Questions which had been addressed to him as to the effect of substituting the word "detention" for the word "imprisonment." Although a different word was employed, the punishment would, in many cases, be identical. He asked for an assurance that soldiers whose defaulter sheets bore the word "imprisonment" would not be placed at a disadvantage as compared with those whose defaulter sheets contained the word "detention." His object was to secure that the word "detention" instead of "imprisonment" should be inserted in the defaulter sheet of soldiers who had served with the colours and been discharged long ago.

Otherwise, one man might have a defaulting sheet with the word "detained" in it and another man who had been guilty of the same offence might have his defaulter's sheet marked "imprisoned."

MR. HALDANE said that he would be glad to consider if anything could be done to place those soldiers whose defaulter sheets were marked with "imprisonment," in as favourable a position as regarded civil employment on leaving the service as those soldiers who, for the same military crime, had their defaulter's sheet marked under the new system with "detention."

MR. CARLILE was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman could not give a further assurance than he had done.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 10:—

VISCOUNT TURNOUR moved the omission of the proviso regarding punishments, which he thought was very badly worded. He was not in favour in any way of inflicting the punishment of flogging, and he was glad that it had been abolished in the Army. But he objected to the principle which allowed the Secretary of State to make rules as to the punishments which should be inflicted in the field; and he thought that the words "such field punishments shall be of personal restraint, or hard labour, but shall not be of a nature to cause injury to life or limb," were a most unjustifiable reflection on the disciplinary system of the Army. He had yet to learn that officers in the British Army ever gave a punishment which would cause injury to life or limb, and he hopod that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to repeal those words. The first question he had to ask was whether the Secretary of State for War should be permitted to interfere as to arrangements connected with active service at all, and whether they should not be left to the general officer commanding in the field. The second question, which was equally important, was whether the authority should be given to the Secretary of State. It seemed to him that that was a question for Parliament to settle and not for the Secretary of State. On the whole he would prefer that the matter were left to the discretion of the officers in the field, provided that proper rules were drawn up by the House. He had the greatest confidence in the right hon. Gentleman's sense of justice and his ability to devise rules for the Army or any other institution. Still there must be some safeguard, and he did not think the War Office should be the authority entrusted with the duty. The Bill left the question in slipshod fashion, where it had been for 200 years.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 16, to leave out sub-section (a)."—(*Viscount Turnour.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-section (a) stand part of the clause."

MR. ASHLEY directed the attention of the Committee to the serious change made by this sub-section. The old subsection was to the effect that where a soldier on active service was guilty of an aggravated offence of drunkenness or disgraceful conduct, or an offence punishable by death or imprisonment certain consequences should follow. But this sub-section said that where a soldier on active service was guilty of "any" offence it should be lawful for a court-martial to award for that offence such field punishment other than flogging, as might be directed by rules to be made from time to time by a Secretary of State, and that such field punishment should be of the character of personal restraint or of hard labour, but should not be of a nature to cause injury to life or limb. He honestly confessed that at that hour in the morning he was not in a condition to decide whether such a change was or was not desirable. On these grounds he moved that progress should be reported.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am quite willing to accept any Motion to report progress when we have settled this point, but I do not like to break into the middle of a discussion.

MR. HALDANE said the new sub-section was framed to carry out the point which he explained on the Second

Reading discussion. The object of the change was to enable men to be dealt with at the front instead of being sent back to the base. Under the old system a man when he committed an offence got sent back to the base, and hon. Members knew that soldiers committed offences in order to be sent back to the base and relieved from irksome duties. Under this provision they had taken power to define that the punishment should not involve injury to life or limb, and that the rules should be laid before Parliament. Rules could be made which were much less clumsy than an Act of Parliament, and they would, under the proposals of this Bill, come under the consideration of some of the best authorities and also of Parliament.

LORD BALCARRES said that no doubt, as the right hon. Gentleman had stated, these rules would be laid on the Table and would be amended from time to time. He wished to know, however, whether any discretion was to be given to the officer on the spot to vary the rules or whether they would always have to come before the House. It seemed to him rather a roundabout system that the rules should be laid on the Table, and then taken as adopted. Rules which would apply in Liberia in West Africa would be different from those which should apply in Egypt or the southern portion of Africa, and the proceeding would be an excessively cumbrous one, especially for the officer at the front. He wished to know what the term "field punishment" implied, and whether it was dangerous to life and limb.

MR. HALDANE said that in the old days punishments were inflicted which were dangerous to life and limb, but the present provisions would prevent that.

LORD BALCARRES thought the matter should be made quite clear. What were the punishments which required these safeguarding words. The words in the Bill did not make the matter very clear.

*MR. CAVE said the Committee would not be surprised that hon. Members took a greater interest in this clause, affecting as it did the punishment of the men, than in any other clause in the Bill. It proposed a very serious change in the law. To begin with, the power to give summary punishment was extended to all offences; it was not confined as it originally was to the three serious offences, and it applied not only to men at the front, but to men on active service, which was a very different thing. In the next place, the saving words at the end were omitted. Those words were that this summary punishment should not be inflicted where the officer was of opinion that the punishment of imprisonment could be resorted to. There were many circumstances under which men on active service could be punished by imprisonment. Why was that saving clause omitted from the Bill when it appeared in the existing Act? Having regard to all these things he had some difficulty in deciding on the clause at the moment, and he thought the Committee should see a draft of the rules and know what the field punishments were to be, and what crimes were to be punished by the process. In discussing Bills to be governed by rules, it was always a great assistance to the Committee to see the rules before the Bill was passed.

MR. LANE-FOX asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had not created a new term in "field punishments." Was there any actual difference between "field punishments" and "summary punishments"? If not he thought they should adhere the old terminology, rather than create a new term.

MR. HALDANE said there was very little difference between the two. There might not be a prison in which to confine a man, and he might be punished severely for minor offences. It was because the Government desired that there should be no abuse of power that they made the provision as to rules. Hon. Gentlemen would notice that the Act could not come into force before July, and he would be pleased to push on the framing of the rules so that they might be laid on the Table of the House before that time.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said that Clause 10 was the most important clause in the whole Bill, and the points that had been touched upon were only those contained in sub-section 5. In the subsequent sub-sections there were other matters of still greater importance which they desired to discuss as soon as this Amendment was disposed of.

*MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON regarded with apprehension the question of giving power to punish in the way proposed. He thought it was unfortunate that the power should not have been left with the commander in the field. British generals were very careful to avoid inflicting punishment, unless there was grave necessity for it. The power of inflicting punishment in the field often obviated the necessity for it, and a general officer would be more likely to send a man back to the base than inflict the extreme punishment in the field. He could not see the advantage of taking the matter out of the hands of the commander in the field.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said it seemed to him that the whole idea was to discourage the sending of the criminals back to the base. Supposing an officer was unfortunate enough to have a number of troublesome characters at the front, the best thing that could be done would be to send them to the base, because nobody could suggest that the maintainence of such characters at the front would improve the *morale* of the troops. Surely it would be possible, instead of putting the men in prison, to punish them by giving them fatigue or other duties whereby they would not be encouraged to stay at the base any longer than they could help. He supposed the right hon. Gentleman had consulted his military advisers on the point, but it seemed to him to be one of considerable magnitude, and he would be glad to receive an assurance that it was the opinion of the military advisers that this policy would be of advantage to the officers concerned. The right hon. Gentleman had not answered the question as to what was the object of creating the new term "field punishment" instead of "summary punishment."

CAPTAIN CRAIG said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that it was his intention to lay before the House some of the rules to which attention had been drawn. If they passed the Bill as it stood, or with the Amendments which the right hon. Gentleman had on the Paper, the present rules and regulations affecting punishments would still be in existence. Therefore, supposing that the Bill passed with all the Amendments which the right hon. Gentleman had down, and that the War Office was not able to draw up a complete set of rules as regarded field punishment, they must take it that the "field punishment" was that referred to in the clause under discussion. He was sorry that an adjournment of the debate had not been allowed, so that they might have had time to study the matter, because when they came to consider the clause, and the serious punishments imposed, he did not think a single Member could appreciate how far it extended. It seemed to him that the clause was rather more severe than the existing rules. He would like the right hon. Gentleman to put in the rules some provision which would save the soldiers from the humiliation of being punished before natives. The right hon. Gentleman was now taking away the safeguards they had before and substituting a new clause which allowed to come under the clause crimes which before did not fall under it. They were very anxious to do full justice to the serious questions now under discussion, and he thought that would be a justification for granting the Motion to report progress which would be moved in a few minutes

MAJOR COATES thought those hon. Members who had listened to the discussion would agree that it had been a serious one. They were discussing some very grave powers which it was proposed to give under the new clauses. He had not noticed the raising of any points which could be regarded as obstruction. Great powers in regard to punishments were being asked for to be exercised by officers serving in the field, and consequently they were justified in seeing that full justice was done to the private soldier. Surely a word ought to be said for that soldier himself, and the protection he ought to receive from Parliament. He noticed that the right hon. Gentleman had not retained the last three lines of the old clause, which read—

> "And shall not be inflicted where the confirming officer is of opinion that imprisonment can with due regard to the public service be carried into execution."

He would like to see those lines maintained because they constituted a valuable protection to the private soldier. When there was a court-martial in the field they might adminster quick justice in hot blood which might not be the kind of justice they would give to men in this country. He urged, therefore, that those words should be retained.

Lord R. CECIL said the main effect of the alteration was to strike out the alternative of imprisonment. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman had not given to the Committee the reason for omitting that as an alternative. He saw the hon. and gallant Member for Abercromby in his place, and he thought he would agree that it was very desirable that where they could imprison the soldier they should not be compelled to send him to the base.

Mr. HALDANE said the very idea of field punishment was to put an end to skulking. There were people who skulked. If they were sentenced to imprisonment they were taken out of the ranks. It was in order to avoid that that the alteration had been made. The court-martial could still imprison if it thought proper. It was desired that field punishment should as far as possible be the rule and not the exception, so that there would be less temptation for the skulker to attempt to skulk.

Mr. CARLILE said he could not agree with his noble friend in thinking that it was desirable to retain the present system of sending military criminals to the base to be dealt with. The proposal in the Bill was a distinct improvement. If a man who had been guilty of a military offence had to be sent to the base, he had not only to be taken out of the ranks himself, but he had to be accompanied to the base by another man. If the defaulter were retained at the front, he might have an opportunity of wiping the stain from his character.

Viscount HELMSLEY expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would reply to the point which had been raised by the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone.

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.) said the Secretary of State had power to make rules from time to time. He understood that the rules would be laid on the Table of the House so that they might know what they were. They should have an opportunity of judging whether the rules were humane or not.

Mr. HALDANE said he hoped to be able to lay the rules on the Table at an early date.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) moved to report progress. The Committee had now come to the clause which he thought was the most important of all, and it ought to be discussed at a time when they were fully awake and able to deal with it.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Mr. HALDANE said he would be very glad to meet the convenience of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and of himself, but the necessity of passing the Bill was pressing. There was the Report Stage to come, and the other House had to be considered; and with the Easter holidays so near, he felt that he must have the Committee Stage finished at that sitting. He had put down an Amendment to meet the question of flogging which had been raised on the Second Reading, and there were very few other points of substance remaining. He thought that if the Committee allowed him to get the Bill through at that sitting they would agree on reflection that they had done the right thing.

Mr. FORSTER hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision. He could not understand why he insisted on pressing the Committee Stage of the Bill that day. The date on which the Bill must become law was April 30th, and there were three Parliamentary weeks after the Easter recess in which it could be discussed. There were a considerable number of clauses raising points of substance which could not be properly dealt with after such a prolonged sitting, and he thought that the right hon. Gentlemen should consent to the adjournment.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said that the right hon. Gentleman earlier in the evening told the Committee that he regretted that this Bill had been used more or less as a fighting ground by both Parties in the House. He would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that if he wished, in the sessions to come, the Army Bill to go easily through the House, it would be by agreeing to the Motion proposed by his hon. friend. If the right hon. Gentleman was depending on the relays he was bringing down to the House, which he understood had been arranged for, he was making a grossly unfair use of his Parliamentary majority; and it would be the duty of the Opposition to continue sitting until the Bill had been thoroughly discussed to the end. Not a moment more time had been taken in these discussions than was absolutely necessary, and he was astonished that hon. Members opposite could not keep awake so as to discuss such serious questions as punishments in the Army. If the right hon.'Gentleman was sincere in his desire to facilitate the passage of the Bill in the future he would consent to the Motion.

LORD R. CECIL said he could not help hoping that the Government would consent to the Motion. It was not a matter of his own personal convenience at all; he had been detained from the House on urgent private business, but he was now altogether free for the day. [AN HON. MEMBER: No briefs today!] He thought that such proceedings were really a scandal to Parliament and an outrage on legislation. He did not believe that in years to come many people would credit the fact that the greatest example of Parliamentary Government in the world could conduct its business in the way it was doing. He would recall to the Committee what had actually occurred. There was under consideration a Bill of great importance dealing with the government of the Army for a whole year and containing a very drastic code. That, owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding for which those on the Front Government Bench were responsible, had been brought on for discussion at two or three o'clock in the morning, when it was impossible for them to consider it owing to the disorderly interruption of Ministerialists and the raucous laughter of hon. Gentlemen opposite. These indications and the appearance of the Secretary of State for War himself showed that the Committee was not really in a condition to discuss and deliberate upon the Bill. They desired to deal fairly with the Secretary of State for War, and they deeply regretted that owing to the extraordinary proceedings of some of his colleagues he had been compelled to discuss the Bill in that way, and at that time of day. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Obstruction!"] It was not a question of obstruction at all. The Bill was brought on at two o'clock in the morning, and it was conceded that it could not be discussed in the time which was given to it. [AN HON. MEMBER: Seven hours.] What sort of hours? Every impartial man knew that discussions carried on under the conditions which had prevailed that night were not discussions at all. The last time there was an all-night sitting the House was not released till the Prime Minister had had his breakfast. He wished to ask whether the Prime Minister could not be induced to have his breakfast now, and to come down to the House and release it from its extraordinary position. The Secretary for War said he did not mind; but they knew he did mind. The energies he could devote to the service of his country after an all-night sitting were not worth having. The Committee would be well advised to accept the Motion, which would commend itself to all hon. Members able to form an impartial and sober judgment. [Cries of "Order!"]

MR. FIENNES (Oxfordshire, Banbury) interposing, asked whether, as the noble Lord had not been present during the whole of the proceedings, he was a capable judge as to whether hon. Members were sober or not.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that was not a point of order. He did not take the word "sober," in the sense in which it was used by the noble Lord, as conveying any reproach.

LORD R. CECIL, who spoke amidst great interruption, in conclusion said he regarded the proceedings as a scandal and disgrace. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh!"] Hon. Members opposite were not capable of discussing a serious subject seriously. [Cries of "Oh!"] He appealed very strongly to the Committee to accept the Motion, and he was sure that in their quieter moments they would agree with his description of the proceedings.

MR. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 197; Noes, 37. (Division List, No. 66.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romford
Black, Arthur W.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy, (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol,S.)
Dewar,John A.(Inverness-sh.)
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Chrles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C. E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea,Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, SirG.Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin

Lord R. Cecil.

Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold. Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feltham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Craig, Captain James(Down,E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 36; Noes, 205. (Division List, No. 67.)

AYES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Craig, Captain James(Down,E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BurySEdm'd's
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett E. N.
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,R'mf'rd
Black, Arthur W.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen (Renfrew W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh

Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'st'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell)Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Br'df'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That the words of the Clause to the end of page 6, line 7, stand part of the Clause,' be now put."

Motion made and Question put, "That the Question 'That the words of the Clause to the end of page 6, line 7, stand part of the Clause', be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 37. (Division List, No. 68.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.

Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies,M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson,Charles N.(Donc'st'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh,Central
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott (Br'df'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax
Williams,Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish,Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F. (Bury S.Edm's
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Starkey, John R.

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 211; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 69.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, R'mf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, E. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'gh
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Centr'l
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)

Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 6, line 7, after the word "apply," to insert the words ' ' Provided that nothing in this sub-section, or in any rules made thereunder, shall authorise flogging to be inflicted for any such offence.' " —(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed "That these words be there inserted."

Lord R. CECIL said the right hon. Gentleman had proposed this Amendment in order to carry out a pledge which he had given. The section as drafted originally seemed to give power to the general in the field to bring back punishment by flogging after it had been abolished. The words at the end of the sub-section were—

> "And the limitations on the power of making rules as to the punishment of prisoners and soldiers undergoing detention and as to the severity of imprisonment and detention shall not apply."

This was a very important matter, and they ought to know exactly what the effect of the clause, as the right hon. Gentleman proposed to amend it, would be. The Amendment would prevent punishment by flogging, but the general in the field, so long as he did not flog a man, could do anything he liked in the way of physical punishment. So long as he did not order flogging, he might range over all the tortures in history, so far as could be seen from the amended clause. In point of fact the general in the field would be entitled to inflict any kind of corporal punishment other than flogging. He did not pretend to be violently opposed to corporal punishment in proper cases, but he thought it was right that the Committee should see exactly what they were going to do. He proposed as an Amendment to the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment to leave out "flogging" and insert "corporal punishment." Although that appeared to him to be a proper Amendment, it would not render the clause complete, because it would still leave power to make the punishment more severe than was allowed in any public prison in England. It was quite clear that the rule might be used so as to inflict severe punishment on the concerned men, In his view there were certain forms of imprisonment which were much more severe than any form of personal chastisement.

Mr. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe): No.

Lord R. CECIL said that the hon. Member for Crewe did not agree with that; but let him ask what was the effect of long solitary confinement? That was a most wicked punishment, and was far more severe than any form of corporal punishment It utterly destroyed a man's moral fibre, and in many instances his mind. So serious was that form of punishment, that stringent rules were laid down in England to prevent it. Of course, they might have imprisonment which involved starvation, or other things which would have a very severe effect on the prisoner. He did not share the great horror that some hon. Members had of corporal punishment, because there was a certain kind of criminal who was more afraid of it than any other form of punishment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the word "flogging," and insert the words "corporal punishment."—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'flogging' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. HALDANE said the word "flogging" was the word used in other portions of the Act, and it represented what it meant. He really did not know what corporal punishment meant. Last year in the Army Act they abolished flogging by that name, and they desired to continue it to make it clear that the abolition extended to this Act.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) pointed out that the expression "corporal punishment" was used in Section 133 and other parts of the Army Act. It would, he thought, be better to substitute it for "flogging," otherwise it might seem as though corporal punishment might be inflicted by a general officer in the field.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said the Committee ought to pause before they lightly did away with flogging altogether in the Army. He was sure the Committee would agree with him that it was quite conceivable that, in the field, there might be such a state of affairs in the presence of the enemy in which the absence of the power to flog might necessitate the infliction of the penalty of death in the case of some offences, such as the maltreatment of women, which he was sorry to say had often taken place. At the same time he thought it was right that in time of peace a general should not have the right to inflict the punishment of flogging. If the Amendment was divided upon he would vote for it.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said there was a general feeling that the arrangement of punishments under the Bill needed thorough revision. There was no system or method about them, and punishments were inflicted which were in no sense desirable. [Cries of "Oh!"] Of course a good many hon. Members who cried "Oh!" had not heard the matter discussed as, following the example of the Prime Minister, while the debate was going on they were sleeping in their beds. He earnestly appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to consider whether he should not revise the whole of the Act.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the remarks of the noble Lord were not in order. He thought he ought to mention to the Committee that the real point they had to consider was whether they should amend the Amendment. He had not the least objection to the two things being discussed together—the Amendment to the Amendment and the Amendment itself—so long as it was understood that there was no hiatus between the settling of the two points. If he allowed hon. Members to discuss the Amendment to the Amendment as well as the Amendment there must be no after discussion of the Amendment.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said it appeared to him that they had been discussing for thirty five minutes an entirely unnecessary point. The Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman suggested that the word "flogging" indicated a kind of punishment which was to be abolished. It was suggested that corporal punishment might still be necessary, but he thought the general opinion was in favour of getting rid both of flogging and of corporal punishment. He should be willing to vote with the noble Lord who had suggested that the words "corporal punishment" should be substituted for "flogging," but it seemed to him that the whole difficulty might be got rid of in a moment if both Amendments were withdrawn and the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill moved the adoption of the words "flogging or other corporal punishment."

MR. LUTTRELL (Devonshire, Tavistock) supported the suggestion.

MR. HALDANE was prepared to accept the Amendment, but hoped the Committee would now give him the clause.

CAPTAIN CRAIG desired some explanation as to the difference between "Field Punishment No. 1" and "Field Punishment No. 2," and complained that it was impossible to recognise the two statements made by the Secretary of State for War, one at twenty minutes past four and the other at twenty minutes past ten.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he had great difficulty in understanding what the hon. Gentleman was driving at. He appeared to be calling attention to two inconsistent statements of the right hon. Gentleman, but he did not see that what he had said had anything to do with the Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL said that so far as he was concerned he was quite willing to withdraw his Amendment, but he desired to move an Amendment which applied to one of the other conditions with regard to the discretion of the general in the field.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'flogging' to insert the words, 'or other corporal punishment.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) asked, supposing a soldier proved refractory in the field where there was no fixed prison, would it be considered corporal punishment if he were tied up, or manacled and fettered? It seemed to him that the Amendment covered a very wide ground. If it was so held, it seemed to him that the officers commanding in the field would be practically prevented from resorting to the usual methods of detention. Supposing a soldier proved refractory and was arrested and placed in detention in a tent and he still proved refractory, would tying him up to a post or putting him in irons be construed as corporal punishment?

MR. HALDANE said the case put by the hon. Member did not come within the term corporal punishment. It was merely restraint.

Question put and agreed to.

LORD R. CECIL said there was a very important limitation which it was proposed to leave out so far as the general commanding in the field was concerned. The subsection was in exceedingly wide terms. It applied to the whole of the country in which we might be operating against an enemy. If they took the recent war, this sub-section, had it been then in operation, would have applied to the whole of South Africa, Cape Colony, Natal, the Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony. That would have been the country in which "operations against the enemy are being conducted." In that wide area the powers of the Secretary of State were to be exercised by the officer commanding-in-chief. Things had gone so far that the right hon. Gentleman was going to make rules to restrict the commanding officer. The Committee had agreed that he should be limited as to flogging and corporal punishment, but he would still have the power to inflict any term of imprisonment under any conditions, however severe and terrible they might be. If he thought it necessary to imprison a man hundreds of miles from the front he could make most severe regulations as to that imprisonment. He attached enormous importance to the prevention of solitary confinement or underfeeding; and unless they inserted some such words as he suggested, the commanding officer would have complete control of the incidence of punishment. He moved as an Amendment to add—

"Or any imprisonment or detention more severe than it is under the law in force for the time being in any prison in England subject to the Prison Act, 1877."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words, 'or any imprisonment or detention more severe than it is under the law in force for the time being in any public prison in England subject to The Prison Act, 1877.' "—(*Lord Robert Cecil.*)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HALDANE said that nothing was further from the mind of the Government than that anything of a barbarous or oppressive nature should be imposed in the form of imprisonment. But the effect of the words which the noble Lord proposed to add was not specific; they were perfectly general, and made it almost impossible to draw up regulations. There were no prisons of the ordinary kind, but only a tent; and, as they had excluded flogging and corporal punishment injurious to life and limb, he hoped that the Committee would leave the Department free to frame proper regulations, which would be laid on the Table of the House. The desire was that their hands should not be tied.

Sir G. PARKER: When those regulations are laid on the Table shall we have an opportunity of discussing them?

Mr. HALDANE: Yes.

Question put,

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 44; Noes, 215. (Division List No. 70.)

AYES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Gilbert Parker.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J H (Essex, Romford
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.

Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, A Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford).
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Proposed words, as amended, there inserted.

MR. HALDANE rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

LORD R. CECIL asked whether it was in order for the Chairman to put the Motion as proposed.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD supported the protest on the ground that under the Standing Orders what was called consequential closure——

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The question of consequential closure is not under consideration.

Question put, "That the Question 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided.—Ayes, 217; Noes 45. (Division List No. 71.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius

Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh,S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, GeorgePeabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W. Bateman(Somerset,N.
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lever,A. Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah(Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montague, E. S.
Morgan, J Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien,Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil,Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson,Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided.—Ayes, 222; Noes, 45. (Division List No. 72.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.)
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,Romf'd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,SirT.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies,M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James(Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,SirD.Brnymor (Swansea)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever,W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J.R.(Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip

Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthy
Thomasson, Franklin
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr Whiteley and Mr. J. A Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

SIR F. BANBURY moved to report Progress. Private Bill Committees, he said, were about to sit, and hon. Members would be unable to do their duty to Private Bills and at the same time remain in the House. He understood also that the Prime Minister had an engagement at twelve o'clock. He begged leave to move to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Sir F. Banbury.*)

MR. HALDANE said that was the third or fourth time that the Motion had been made. He did not think there was anything new under the circumstances which the hon. Baronet had put forward which made the slightest difference in the position. The Government did not propose to accept the Motion.

LORD BALCARRES appealed to the Secretary of State to accept the Motion. He (Lord Balcarres) had been in the House now for twenty hours, and he submitted that there was no Parliamentary hurry for concluding the Bill at that sitting. There were three Parliamentary weeks after the holidays during which the statutory requirements could be carried out, and no case had been made out for urgency. He submitted that it was not unreasonable that at that hour they should be allowed to adjourn.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said the Government had taken three hours of the time of the House during which they might have been discussing the Army (Annual) Bill. At all events, they on that side of the House did not think that the Government had a right to take those hours. He belonged to a Private Bill Committee, and he was now due, or rather overdue, and he appealed to the Prime Minister to allow the adjournment of the debate, for hon. Members were only human.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said the Secretary of State for War had not replied to the argument as to the matter of urgency. Why not adjourn now, and put the continuation of the debate down for Monday? He appealed to the Prime Minister, not only on behalf of the Opposition, but on behalf of the officials, and also on behalf of the police, who had had a very hard night. They had been protecting the House of Commons, which had been practically throughout the night in a state of siege. The police had been engaged in conducting women to the police station, and he appealed to the Prime Minister even on behalf of the Secretary of State for War. He (Mr. Wilson) appealed also on behalf of the unfortunate Members of the House who had been sitting through the debate. If hon. Members on the Government side could cross the floor and look at their own faces, he felt that they would have sympathy with themselves.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS, although a Member of a Committee, thought it was their duty on the Opposition side to stay in the House and see the business through. The difficulty was not the making of the Unionist Members. He thought the Prime Minister ought to see that they should adjourn. Had the original arrangements been adhered to the Bill might have been carried through in an hour.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The hon. Member who has just sat down has thrown a light upon this matter. He says that this Bill should have occupied only an hour, and that there was no intention to occupy more than an hour's time. The hon. Member said so—and I believe the hon. Member who moved the Motion last night said an hour and a half. It is said by hon. Members opposite that the trouble was caused by our interposing the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. It has always been the invariable practice of the House to take the different stages of such Bills *de die in diem*. I regarded Thursday as the necessary night when the Third Reading of the Bill would occur. According to the then arrangement the Committee stage should have been taken on Wednesday, but at the request of the Opposition, and in order to study the desires of hon. Members opposite, the whole matter was advanced, to the considerable loss of the Government. And, therefore, what had been provisionally fixed for Thursday was taken on Wednesday. Then we are told that the whole of this all-night sitting, which I have been fortunate enough to escape, according to the intrepretation now put upon it—which I would never have ventured to put upon it—is a pure piece of vindictiveness in consequence of some alleged misconduct of the Government with regard to the Consolidated Fund Bill which has been explained. In consequence of that, all these Amendments of such thrilling importance and absolute necessity, have been put down, one after another, and we are asked now to adjourn. No, Sir; we have no intention of doing so. The hollowness of the whole thing is now exposed. In one way or another we will secure that the Report stage will be taken on Monday, and we are not prepared to interrupt our scheme of business and sacrifice days after Easter in order to gratify hon. Members opposite.

LORD ROBERT CECIL asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was in order in imputing vindictiveness to hon. Members.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the phrase was only a gloss on statements made by hon. Members and he did not, under the circumstances, consider it unparliamentary.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I might reply in what I believe to be a legal phrase familiar to the noble Lord—*Habemus confitentes reos.* If it had not been for the action taken in regard to the Consolidated Fund Bill this question might have been disposed of in an hour or an hour and a half. We are not disposed to accede to this request.

Mr. FORSTER said he had been present almost continually in the House during the time that the Army Annual Bill had been under discussion. They had learned from the Prime Minister that he would not treat the Opposition in a reasonable manner. They had also learned from him that he would have no regard for hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House. If the right hon. Gentleman was ready to fight, so were they.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 230; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 73).

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William

O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Remond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H.(Ashtonunder Lyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F (Bury S. Edm'd's
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 48; Noes, 230. (Division List No. 74).

AYES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edmd's
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,Sir J.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,Romf'd)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig,Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras, N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Right Hon Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarv'nshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'd)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)

Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. ASHLEY moved a new clause defining the punishment for repeated desertion, fraudulent enlistment, and absence without leave, and by way of substitution for the old clause in the Army Act, which he contended was unjust. It laid down the principle that a man tried for fraudulent enlistment and desertion by Court-martial, and convicted of both of those offences, should be liable to a higher scale of punishment than if convicted of only one offence. If he was convicted of two offences, he would be liable to penal servitude, but if he was convicted of only one offence he would be liable to imprisonment. He was sure that the Committee would agree that, if a man committed an offence twice, it was right his punishment should be increased; but it was extremely unusual, in English Civil Law, that a man, because he was convicted of two offences, should be liable to penal servitude, whereas, if he was convicted of only one offence, he would be liable only to imprisonment.

New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to Desertion, Fraudulent Enlistment, and Absence without Leave)—(*Mr. Ashley*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE said it was impossible for him to accept the proposed new clause. A person enlisting fraudulently once might do so under some impulse, but the person who had deserted from one regiment, and fraudulently enlisted in another, was a very different type of man. Under the section as it stood, a man came under the second category, and was liable to penal servitude, who repeatedly fraudulently enlisted. Those cases were very few, but penal servitude had been inflicted. The new clause sought to take away the power of imposing that punishment, and he could not accept it.

SIR F. BANBURY said the right hon. Gentleman's argument was no doubt extremely good, provided that the punishment was limited to a certain number of years of imprisonment. He quite agreed that a man who committed an offence knowingly the second time should have a heavier punishment than the man who committed it for the first time, That principle applied to every offence under the statute. They all agreed that fraudulent enlistment was a serious offence, that it acted very detrimentally to the Army, and was one for which there should undoubtedly be a fresh and increasing punishment to act as a deterrent in case of repeated offences; but the punishment provided in the Act was of a different category altogether. They were not content to say that the punishment should be increased, but they said that a different kind of penalty should be imposed. Could the right hon. Gentleman tell them of any offence in law for which a different penalty was inflicted on a second conviction? He believed there was no statute which said that, provided a man had been convicted before, he should be liable to a punishment different from that to which he was liable on first conviction. Under those circumstances, he thought they ought to pause and consider whether they should not accept the new clause. The Committee, he thought, were indebted to his hon. friend for pointing out what he believed to be an absolute injustice. None of them was desirous of giving any facility for desertion or fraudulent enlistment, and they all regarded the Army as a serious profession. He hoped those Members who had legal experience would show them if they were wrong in supporting the new clause, because they on that side of the House were in an exceedingly reasonable frame of mind, and, if it could be shown that, as laymen, they were making a mistake, they would no doubt reconsider the matter. He, however, contended that they had not made a mistake, but that they were right in supporting the Amendment. If his hon. friend went to a division, he would support him.

Mr. CAVE said they were not dealing with the case of a man who had been already convicted, nor with the case of a man who had been convicted more than once of fraudulent enlistment, but with the case of a man who had fraudulently enlisted and then was not found out until he was brought up as a deserter. He might then be tried, at one and the same time, for fraudulent enlistment and desertion. It was the first time he was charged, but he was charged with two offences at once. In an ordinary criminal Court, the man would be dealt with as though he was a first offender in each case; but under the section which his hon. friend sought to modify, if he was convicted for the first offence, he was liable, when charged with the second offence, to be treated as an old offender. That was neither right nor in accordance with the rules of our criminal law. He had known hundreds of men brought up at the same Court on two charges, and they had never been treated on the second charge as old offenders. It was never done, and he doubted whether it could be done. It was under this Act only, so far as he knew, that a man tried with a double offence could be treated as an old offender and sent to penal servitude for what was really only one offence. He did not think that that was either fair or just. It was certainly not in accordance with the rules of English civil law, and if the hon. Gentleman would only look into the matter and see what it meant, he was sure he would agree with them. The Amendment was to leave out of Section 12 certain words at the end, which provided it should be lawful, on conviction of a person of two or more offences, to award him the higher punishment provided for a second offence, as though he had been convicted by a previous Court-martial of one of such offences. He supported the proposed new clause.

Sir GILBERT PARKER heartily supported the proposed new clause. It was generally held that the object of punishment was to prevent a man from committing the offence again. If the man did repeat the offence after punishment, then the Court, as a rule, took a more severe view of the case, and properly so. The man had had time to think of the offence he had committed, and the effect of his conduct had been brought home to him. If he then committed the crime again, a severer punishment ought to be administered. But in this case the man was not given any opportunity for repentance. He had enlisted fraudulently, but he had not had the real significance of his crime brought home to him. Then, having fraudulently enlisted, he deserted. That was a serious thing, but the man would not have fully realised the heinousness of his offence in the way he would have done if he had already been imprisoned for it. He, therefore, agreed with his hon. friend who had raised the question, that the case was entirely different from that of a man who had committed an offence, been punished, had had time to consider it, and had then deliberately repeated the offence. The right hon. Gentleman must see that he had put the soldier on an entirely different basis from any other man who committed a misdemeanour or crime. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to accept the clause, which would, he honestly believed, obviate unfair treatment of a man who had had no opportunity whatever of repenting of his offence.

Mr. LANE-FOX was sorry to have to disagree from his hon. friend, but on this occasion he could not support him He entirely agreed with the view taken by the right hon. Gentleman. It was not a question between a first and second offence, but between one offence and one very much greater. Everybody knew that a man who habitually deserted was a far greater nuisance, and committed a far more serious crime, than could be fairly gauged by the question between one and two. He thought, when hon. Members considered the matter, they would see that there was no hardship. The Act said that a man might be sent to penal servitude; but everybody knew that the maximum penalty was seldom imposed, and surely it was desirable that there should be a severe penalty for the habitual deserter, who, after all, was not easy to discover, was a constant source of trouble, and might also be a source of danger. He could not, therefore, support the new clause.

Lord R. CECIL said the case put by the hon. Member for Blackpool was that the two offences were really one. It was not only that the man had not been warned, but the Court which had tried and found him guilty of one offence was naturally prone to think him guilty of the second offence, and the man did not get an impartial trial. The conviction of two offences by the same Court at the same time was not the same thing as the conviction of a man by different Courts for different offences.

Mr. COURTHOPE thought that if his hon. friends would look at the clause again they would see that their objections to the alterations fell to the ground. The proposed alteration in Clause 12, as he read it, was not to prevent an increased penalty being given for an offence committed a second time, but was one to prevent two offences, brought up at one and the same time and tried together, being treated as first and second offences.

Mr. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 232; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 75.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S,)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Dev'np'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W,
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, Sir T. Glen-(Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh'e
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederick C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick, A.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh,Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson,Sir G.Scott (Br'df'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn.A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, John Henry (Halifax
Williams,Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy Winchester
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey,F.W.F. (Bury S.E'm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the Clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 50; Noes, 240. (Division List No. 76.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.Sir Alex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Ed'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Long,Rt.Hn. Walter (Dublin,S.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah

Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Ashley and Mr. Claude Hay.

NOES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, R'mf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd)
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.

Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. ASHLEY said he wished to move another new clause with reference to fraudulent enlistment. He proposed to omit in paragraph 8, Sub-section 1, Section 13, the words "obtain a regular discharge therefrom or otherwise." He moved this new clause for two reasons. In the clause as it stood there were, in his opinion, words which were redundant, and which therefore ought not to be retained. In his new clause it was said that a man must fulfil the conditions to enable him to enlist; and therefore he saw no necessity why it should be said that he must "have obtained a regular discharge from the Regular Forces." He must have done so to fulfil the conditions. As the clause stood it would be practically impossible for an officer who belonged to the Regular Force to join a local force such as was raised in 1897 during the South African War without coming under the dire pains and penalties of imprisonment, and, if he did it twice, of penal servitude.

New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to Fraudulent Enlistment)—(*Mr. Ashley*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed: "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE said he could not gather what was the purpose of the hon. Member in moving the new clause. The words he proposed to strike out were the very essence of the clause. If a man enlisted in two corps he disturbed the situation in a way which introduced great confusion, and consequently it had been made a specific offence to enlist in another corps without having first obtained a regular discharge from the one he joined first. The Government could not, therefore, consent to having the clause cut down.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR thought the clause, as it stood, imposed rather hard restrictions upon officers of the Auxiliary Forces. He called particular attention to the words "or any force raised in India or the Colonies," and asked what was the definition of the word "Force" in that connection. He was in the Yeomanry. Supposing he went into the Colonies and joined a rifle club, the members of which drilled together, would he be guilty of having joined a force raised in the Colony without first obtaining his discharge from the Yeomanry?

MR. HALDANE: Of course it must be a regular corps.

SIR F. BANBURY said the right hon. Gentleman had told them he could not accept the new clause because, if a man enlisted in two different corps, it caused confusion and no doubt showed the nominal strength greater than the actual strength. That seemed to be a fallacious argument. Supposing they adopted the new clause; what would happen? They would be putting the Auxiliary Forces on the same footing as the Regular Forces. Was not that what the right hon. Gentleman was trying to do in his scheme? Was he not trying to make the Army one homogeneous whole? He thought, if the right hon. Gentleman further considered the matter, he would see that his hon. friend was right. He would put another point to the right hon. Gentleman. The Militia was going to be abolished. What was the use, therefore, of making a special provision for a corps which was not going to exist?

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I do not consider that kind of argument is in order. We have to take things as they are.

SIR F. BANBURY said that he understood from the Chairman's ruling that they could not go into the whole question of what would happen under the new scheme, but his argument was that, supposing the new scheme came into existence, there was no reason why the Militia and the Yeomanry should be put in a different position from that of the Regular Army.

MR. HALDANE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 244; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 77.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, R'mf'd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grn'st'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accr'gton)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bg'hs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnarmara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James

Nicholson, Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson, Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the Clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 57; Noes, 252. (Division List No. 78.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.Sir Alex. F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West

Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BuryS.Edm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R
Lockwood,Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col.A.R
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord (E. Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A.Stanley(York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TEELLRS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Roberts and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

NOES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Benn,SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,SirJ.H (Essex,R'mf'rd)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M.Vaughan (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St.Pancras,
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, Sharp John
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, SirD.Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, HughCecil(St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lever, A Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G,
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montague, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, CharlesN(Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipper'ryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)

Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clar)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG. Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H.(Brentford)
Samuel, HerbertL. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sstraus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, SirEdward(Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. ASHLEY moved as a new clause to insert in Clause 97 of the Army Act after the word "attestation" the words "in a non-European corps." He pointed out that under the Army Act a master in the United Kingdom could regain the services of an apprentice if he enlisted in His Majesty's Regular Army before the conclusion of his term of indenture. The object of his new clause was to ensure that a master in England should not have preferential treatment over a master in one of our Colonies. He was sure that hon. Members opposite, who always wished to be fair to everybody and did not often succeed, would see that if his clause were accepted by the Committee it would enable a master in the Colonies to recover the services of an apprentice if he absconded and enlisted in a native regiment, just as a master at home could recover his apprentice's services. He could not conceive anybody objecting to pass such a clause. Why should a master who had an indentured labourer working for him lose the services of that labourer, and not be able to get him back, if he absconded and enlisted in one of the native corps which were scattered all over the Empire—in Hong Kong, Singapore, the West Indies, and other places?

New Clause (Amendment of Section 97, Army Act, as to indentured labourers)—(*Mr. Ashley*)—brought up' and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE found it difficult to discover what the purpose of the hon. Member was in moving this alteration in the law. There was no distinction in principle between Clauses 96 and 97. If a young man below twenty-one who was an apprentice, enlisted in the Army, he could be reclaimed under certain conditions. He saw no need for differentiation between a European and a non-European corps.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY thought the point raised by the Member for Blackpool was a very valuable one. To make the provisions in Clauses 96 and 97 clearer, he would suggest the insertion of the words "whether in a European or non-European corps."

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. CALDWELL) pointed out that the question before the Committee was that the clause be read a second time. When it was read a second time would be the time to amend it.

SIR F. BANBURY said the Secretary for War did not evidently understand his own Act, because he had said that the result of the alteration which his hon. friend had proposed would be to put the indentured labourer in a different position from the apprentice. But it would do nothing of the kind. What it really meant was that the provisions of the Act not having been made sufficiently elastic to cover the case of forces regular and irregular which were serving in the Colonies, non-European forces serving in the Colonies could not come under it. It was very clear that something of the sort must be inserted in the clause, or else they would be in the position that an indentured labourer who left his employer and went into the native force at Hong Kong or in some parts of India——

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The simple question is whether this clause shall be limited to enlistment in a non-European corps or not.

SIR F. BANBURY thought it an extremely good argument in favour of the proposed clause that the Army Act was not clear at present. When the clause was passed it could be amended so as to make the matter perfectly clear.

MR. CLAUDE HAY considered that the discussion had made it quite clear that the new clause moved by his hon. friend was one of considerable importance. It was essential that the Committee should know exactly where it was in limiting or extending the conditions under which indentured labourers might be either taken for military purposes as in this case——

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: These general observations are not relevant to the question before the Committee. The question is that this clause be read a second time.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 57, Noes, 261. (Division List No. 79.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlexF.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BuryS.Edm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Long, Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F.(Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashley and Sir Gilbert Parker.

NOES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas

Byles, William Pollard
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie,J.Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N)
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
McVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Alfred
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)

Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. COURTHOPE moved a new clause repealing Clause 187 of the Army Act. He explained that the clause dealt with the application of the Army Act to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. If it were examined in connection with the early clauses of the Army Annual Bill some very curious inconsistencies would be revealed. In the second clause of the Bill the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man were grouped with the United Kingdom in regard to the date when the Act should come into force, but in Clause 187, with which he was dealing, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man for certain purposes in the Act were to be deemed to be Colonies. Clause 2 of the Bill provided that in the Colonies the Act should come into force on 31st July. Therefore, there was this curious state of things—that, for certain purposes, viz., for the purposes of the regular forces in the Channel Islands, the Act should come into force on one day, and for the purposes of the Auxiliary Forces in the same islands the Act should come into force on another day. By Clause 186 it was provided that under certain conditions the Auxiliary Forces should be deemed to be part of His Majesty's Forces within the meaning of the Act. Therefore, there was hopeless complexity. In the Isle of Man the state of things was similar, although not identical. The Isle of Man was a colony for the purposes of the Militia, but not for the Auxiliary Forces. Thus, for Militia purposes the Act would come into force on one date, and for all other purposes on a different date. He submitted that that was a very undesirable state of things and would cause great confusion. He failed to find any reason for this extraordinary state of things, and it seemed to him that Clause 187 should be cut out. The effect of the clause would be that the existing inconsistencies would be done away with without any inconvenience to the Forces of the Crown or to those who administered them.

New Clause (Repeal of Section 187 of Army Act)—(*Mr. Courthope*) — Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE said the hon. Member was under an illusion. This clause of the Army Act did not apply to any place to which it was not extended by the Army Annual Act. The Army Annual Act had its own provisions with regard to the time of application. When the Army Act did apply, there were certain modifications of its provisions for the purpose of adapting the machinery of the General Act. If they took Clause 187 they found that, while the Act *prima facie* did apply to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, as regarded billeting and impressment of carriages, which was one subject by itself, the provisions of the Act were not extended either to the Channel Islands or to the Isle of Man. As regarded sentences of penal servitude these islands were deemed to be Colonies. For the purposes of the Auxiliary Forces they were made Colonies also, and that took the Auxiliary Forces out of the establishment of the British Militia and other Forces of the Crown. When the principal Act applied, these particular modifications were made for this specific purpose. It would be found that the principal Act and the Army Annual Act were quite harmonious.

SIR F. BANBURY thought he understood the explanation of the Secretary of State for War. The right hon. Gentleman did not wish the Militia in the Isle of Man to come under the Army Annual Act, but he wished to preserve that body as an independent force under the command of the Governor.

MR. HALDANE: I was not touching that question; I was only taking it as a particular case of the alteration under the Army Annual Bill. I see no reason for disagreeing with the statement of my hon. friend that in the Isle of Man the Militia for certain purposes would not be under the provisions of the Army Act.

SIR F. BANBURY considered that that was an extremely awkward predicament for the Militia to be in, for they would find great difficulty in discovering whether they were under the provisions of the Army Annual Act or not. The officers might be able to understand the extreme technicality of the Act, but the poor ordinary Militiaman would not. They would, no doubt, find that they had committed offences which, if they had understood the Army Annual Act, they would not have committed. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the clause which it was proposed to omit exempted from impressment of carriages and billeting the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. But what were the objections to provisions as to billeting and impressment of carriages applying to those islands? If the provisions were good, why should they not be operative there also? He could see no reason why, if troops required the use of carriages, carts, wagons and accommodation, they should not be able to have them in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as elsewhere. Unless some better explanation were given by the Secretary for War as to why he objected to the new clause, he should certainly support it.

MR. CLAUDE HAY considered that it was abundantly clear from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman that it would be very difficult for persons unaccustomed to the language in which these documents were couched to understand the clause. He therefore appealed to the Secretary for War to find words, before the Report stage, which would make it quite clear to all the Forces how they stood in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands with respect to billeting and other provisions in Clause 187 of the Army Act. It seemed somewhat ridiculous that in those two parts of the King's dominions there should be no provision for impressment of carriages and for billeting when necessary.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 54; Noes, 262. (Division List No. 80).

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex.F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Mr. Courthope and Mr. Claude Hay.

NOES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barber, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,Sir J.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Eesex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst. W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francie Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)

Corbett, C.H.(Sussex, E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamer (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset, N.
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamy, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston)
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradfr'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton underLyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore, C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, John Henry(Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A Pease.

Captain CRAIG moved a new clause, the effect of which was to increase the penalty provided in sub-section 4 of Clause 98 of the Act, on a summary conviction, for interfering with the recruiting of his Majesty's forces from £20 to £50, or three months imprisonment. He wished to lay special stress upon the seriousness of the crime of directly or indirectly interfering with recruiting. In certain parts of Ireland the present fine had proved insufficient to prevent seditious literature being circulated and intimidation practised. The men who, undeterred by that intimidation had joined the territorial regiments in Ireland had proved to be as good soldiers as served anywhere in His Majesty's dominions; therefore his remarks must not be considered as casting any reflection upon such well known honourable regiments as they had in Ireland. Recruits from all sections of the population having once accepted service proved themselves——

*The CHAIRMAN said he could not allow this new clause to be made an excuse for dealing with the Irish recruiting question. The hon. and gallant Member must confine himself to the question whether or not the penalty for interference with recruiting should be altered.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL (Dublin University) asked whether the hon. and gallant Member was not entitled to show the extent of the mischief.

*The CHAIRMAN said he did not think that was the proper time to go into the question of Irish recruiting.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL asked when would be the proper time. It seemed impossible that there could be a more suitable or reasonable opportunity for considering the matter than when a clause was moved which aimed directly at the prevention of interference with enlistment.

*The CHAIRMAN said the question was simply whether or not the penalty should be increased.

Captain CRAIG said that under the circumstances he could do no more than formally move his proposed new clause.

New clause (Additional Penalty on interference with recruiting)—(*Captain Craig.*)—brought up and read a first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said that although the new clause proposed to increase the penalty for interfering with recruiting, under the ruling of the Chair they were not allowed to give any reason why the penalty should be increased. That seemed to be a very hard ruling——

*The CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member must not criticise the ruling of the Chair. Under the circumstances in which the House was sitting he thought he was perfectly justified in refusing to allow the question of recruiting in Ireland to be discussed on that occasion.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said it was a curious thing that the Chairman should accept a clause dealing with an increased penalty for interference with recruiting, and then refuse to allow proof to be brought of such interference.

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must not criticise my ruling.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I bow to your ruling, Sir.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL pointed out that the object of the new clause was to make more real and effective the existing enactment in the Army Act in reference to any attempt to interfere, directly or indirectly, with recruiting for His Majesty's Army. In order to keep within the ruling of the Chair, he would avoid going into detail, but in Ireland there existed at present an anti-enlistment crusade carried on by secret means, and the only available method of dealing with it was to deal with the persons who circulated anti-enlistment pamphlets and posted up intimidatory notices. More stringent measures were absolutely essential if they were to preserve what in the past had been one of the most fertile recruiting grounds for men who had proved a credit to their native land and to the Empire. Public opinion was not the same in Ireland as here, and the whole pressure of powerful political organisations was behind the men carrying on the anti-recruiting crusade. The humble men who might be encouraged to enlist were often quite incapable of resisting the pressure. The matter was one of the most serious that could be raised on the Army Bill, the agitation having already done great injury to recruiting in the Army. Had a representative of the Irish Government been present he would have asked whether the practice enforced by the late Administration, under which they took into custody persons caught in the act of posting intimidatory or seditious notices, had been countermanded by a circular of His Majesty's advisers. Instead of checking the evil, the Government were practically giving increased facilities to the persons engaged in that seditious and anti-enlisting crusade.

*THE CHAIRMAN reminded the right hon. Gentleman that they were not now discussing the action of His Majesty's Government, and he must confine himself to the necessity for increasing the penalty.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL said he would content himself with pressing upon the Committee the strong necessity for dealing by legislation with the daily increasing seditious agitation in Ireland, the avowed purpose of which was to exclude all Irishmen from service in His Majesty's forces, naval or military.

MR. J. MACVEAGH pointed out that the pamphlet by means of which it was said the anti enlistment crusade was carried on was really a reprint from the Annual Report of the Registrar-General on the morality of the Army. And as to the alleged secret means, the pamphlets were issued by the Irish Unionist Alliance, of Grafton Street, Dublin.

MR. BUCHANAN rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 272, Noes, 57. (Division List No. 81.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J.Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J.H. Essex,Romfd)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E

Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Hope, W. Bateman (Somers't, N.
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast')
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthn)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount

Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edmd's
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly, "That the clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 64; Noes, 288. (Division List No. 82.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Collings,Rt.Hn.J. (Birm'gham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Gov'n
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompton, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmort'n
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Captain Craig and Major Coates.

NOES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry,Redmond J.(Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,Sir J.Williams(Devonp't
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,Sir J.H.(Essex,R'mf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Daies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)

Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwich, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamon, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk,B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price,C. E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mp'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn Carmarth'n
Williams, Oswold (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT moved a new Clause providing that the accused soldier should have the right to ask for written evidence. The object of his Amendment was simply to ensure that the accused should see the evidence in writing. [" Speak up."]

*The CHAIRMAN: If hon. Members will keep quiet it will be quite possible to hear the hon. Member.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said there were none so deaf as those who would not hear. The clause provided that the evidence should be committed to writing, and he wanted the soldier to have the right to see it. He did not wish to weary the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War. They all recognised his courtesy and admitted he was fighting the battle in a way worthy of a War Minister, but in the interest of justice for the uneducated man he asked the right hon. gentleman to accept this Amendment.

Mr. J. MACVEAGH: It is now after a quarter to three.

Several HON. MEMBERS: What does that matter ?

Mr. J. MACVEAGH: The hon. Member is talking against time.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said the hon. Member accused him of doing what he had often done himself. He could say with a clear conscience that no one had spoken less against time than he had in the past. His only object was to assist the Government and to get the Bill made clear.

New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to right of accused to have evidence in writing)—brought up and read the first time.—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. HALDANE said that though the purpose of the Clause was laudable he feared that the object aimed at by the hon. Member would be defeated by the very means he suggested. By the existing regulations the evidence would be taken in writing in a court-martial, but in the case of subordinate proceedings before a commanding officer the provision would mean a burden to the prisoner and not a relief.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 304. (Division List No. 83.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. VictorC.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Collings, Rt. Hn. J.(Birm'gham
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col.A.R
Long, Rt. HnWalter (Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes— Mr. T. L. Corbett and Mr. Charles Craig.

NOES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonpt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. Essex, Romfd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. E.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir J. H. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davis, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset N.
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Rober
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert

Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh, Central
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverham'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest S.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved a new clause, with the object of deleting the word "shamefully" from the fourth section of the Act, which relates to court-martials on officers who have "shamefully" abandoned or surrendered their posts. He was, he said, not going to weary the Committee. He only desired to give Ministers an opportunity of carrying out a reform which many of them had been demanding for years. The object of the clause as it stood in the original Act was to provide for a court-martial on an officer who had abandoned or surrendered his post, and upon conviction he was liable to sentence of death or such less penalty as might be awarded. He had heard the point discussed on three occasions, and on one of them the present Attorney-General, who he was sorry not to see in his place, so convinced him by his eloquent pleading that the word "shameful" ought to be left out that he then and there made up his mind that should he ever be in opposition he would do his utmost to get such a reform carried. He presumed the hon. and learned Gentleman was still of the same opinion; he could not possibly have changed his mind in two years. Army officers were in a different position from naval officers in this matter. The latter charged with a like offence were afforded an opportunity of clearing themselves at a court-martial. An Army officer was not, and the result was that on many occasions the military authorities had hesitated to have a court-martial because they did not see their way to try an officer for a "shameful" act, the consequence being that the accused officer had been afforded no opportunity of clearing his character and setting himself right in the face of the world. The retention of the word "shameful" was the cause of considerable injustice to many officers during the Boer War. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to consult his colleagues on this Amendment and to carry out their views.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. HALDANE said the military authorities held that it was essential to retain the word, otherwise it would be impossible to justify the death penalty for the offence of abandoning a post. To strike out the word would be to vitiate the whole principle on which the clause was founded.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that as the right hon. Gentleman did not care to avail himself of the opportunity offered him to carry out the views of his own colleagues, he did not feel called upon to press the matter, and would therefore withdraw his proposal.

Proposed new clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) moved to report progress, but said that he did not intend to press the Motion to a division if, as he hoped, they came to an agreement with regard to the future course of business. He was in the same relatively fortunate position as the Prime Minister, of being able to approach the question without the memory of an all-night sitting behind him, and he was, of course, dependent on hearsay for an account of the course of the controversy, and of the reasons which had brought them to their present position. He could not help regretting, as he always did regret, that the House or the Committee should be driven to these very prolonged and exhausting sittings. If he had been rightly informed, he could not help expressing his regret at the course the Government had adopted. He understood that the whole difficulty had arisen from the Government's insisting on taking the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill on the previous night, instead of permitting the House, in the ordinary course, to go on with the discussion in Committee of the Bill which had kept them there for so many hours. He asked the Prime Minister the other day as to the course of business, and the reply was perfectly explicit. He would like to remind the right hon. Gentleman of the exact words he used. On March 14th the right hon. Gentleman said that on Thursday (that was that day) it was proposed to move the Speaker out of the chair on the Civil Service Estimates and to take the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. No words could be more precise or less capable of being misunderstood. He was not aware that the right hon. Gentleman had said anything to qualify that statement. But there was a reason given that morning for departing from that specific pledge. He was informed that that reason was based on an imaginary practice which required the successive stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill to be taken on successive days. There was no such rule in existence. The Prime Minister knew that it was pure imagination, and they had only to look back to quite recent records to see that there was no justification for the statement. Last year the Government themselves did not take the stages of the Bill on successive days. It might be said that the intervening day—a Friday—was a private Members' day, and that therefore the Bill was taken on successive Government days. He did not think that even that could be held to be adequate justification for the alleged rule; but if it were, let them go back to 1905. When the late Government was in office there was an acute controversy on questions connected with the Army. Then, far more than now, there was difficulty in obeying the law which required that certain financial business should be done before March 31st, because they did not finish the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill until March 30th; yet under that pressure the Government allowed a day to intervene between the Committee stage and the Third Reading. Votes A and 1 of the Army Estimates were interpolated by the Government of that day between the Committee stage and the Third Reading of the Bill. The Committee would see, therefore, that the alleged reason why the explicit pledge was departed from was one which had no basis either in Parliamentary practice or in Parliamentary law. There was no foundation for the argument except in the imagination of Ministers. The Prime Minister, like himself, had had long experience of the House of Commons, and would admit that when a pledge of the Government was broken, for a reason which was clearly a bad reason, there must arise a state of feeling which led to these prolonged, exhaustive, and fruitless sittings. The Opposition had acted as any other Opposition in their place would have done. The Government, he hoped, would now feel that had there been a little more anxiety to meet the legitimate desires of the Opposition they would not then be continuing a sitting begun more than twenty-four and a half hours before. He hoped that business would now be brought to a rapid termination, and he begged to move his Resolution *pro forma.* He regretted all that had occurred, but, unless he had been wholly misinformed, the blame must rest on the shoulders of those who had rashly and inexpediently departed from the pledged word of the Leader of the House, and who had justified their actions by alleged Parliamentary practice and Parliamentary law which had no justification either in the Standing Orders or in the records of the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN recognised the dispassionate and reasonable spirit in which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken. He had referred to the legitimate desires of the Opposition, but the whole difficulty had arisen from the fact that the Government did yield to the legitimate desires of the Opposition. ["No."] The Government had proposed that the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill should be taken on Tuesday, and it was on that footing he named Thursday as the night for the Third Reading. But in accordance with what the Government thought the legitimate desire of the Opposition they advanced the stage by a day, and gave up Monday to the Second Reading, and therefore the whole scheme of business he had proposed, so far as it affected the Consolidated Fund Bill, was altered by being brought forward by one day. He proposed that the Second Reading should be taken on Tuesday, Committee on Wednesday, and Third Reading on Thursday. The right hon. Gentleman opposite said "No, we must have the Second Reading on Monday." Very well, the Government agreed, and that was the whole matter. And he would remind the Committee that there was no great constitutional question affected by this whole matter. The Consolidated Fund Bill had not the peculiar virtues of an Appropriation Bill. That was a doctrine he had often heard expounded by an authority the right hon. Gentleman would recognise. Sir W. Harcourt had always objected to the idea that the Consolidated Fund Bill had the peculiar sanctity which was possessed by the Appropriation Bill. There was ample opportunity given at this period of the session for the discussion of general questions affecting the conduct of the Government. There were not only the various stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill, but there was also the opportunity afforded by the Motion to adjourn for the Easter holiday. There was nothing unreasonable, unusual, or unfair in what had happened at all. And even supposing the Government had been mistaken in bringing forward that stage of the Bill, was that any reason for occupying he did not know how many hours in discussing the details of the Army Bill, which might have been disposed of in an hour? [Cries of "Yes."] Was it a sufficient reason for all the disturbance that had been caused to the House? The idea was to punish the Government for a certain fancied wrong over the Consolidated Fund Bill by talking about a measure which it was admitted might have been disposed of in about an hour. ["No, no."] That was the reason put forward by the right hon. gentleman. When he spoke before he had to deal with comparatively unimportant persons.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, on a point of order, asked whether the Prime Minister had any right to describe Members of the House as "unimportant" Members.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said his phrase was "comparatively unimportant" Members. If all Members on the other side were of equal importance that did not say much for the estimate in which they professed to hold the leader of their Party. That, too, was the excuse put forward by the Leader of the Party in cold blood, without any of the warmth which might be generated by an all-night sitting, in justification of what had happened. He had another point to urge, and to some hon. Members it might seem to be a strange point. He was not supposed to be a particular partisan of the House of Lords, but the other House had to be considered in these arrangements; and therefore it was necessary for the Government to take the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill the previous night, because the House of Lords had to receive the Bill that day in order that they might dispose of it before adjourning for the Easter recess. The whole thing, therefore, was perfectly straight. On the invitation, and at the expressed desire, of the right hon. Gentleman and his friends, the Government put the business forward a day. That arrangement having been made, and arrangements elsewhere having been made on that footing, the Government proceeded to deal day after day with the several stages of the Bill. But, whatever might be said of the arrangement, there was no justification for keeping the House sitting from one o'clock in the morning until half-past three o'clock in the afternoon in order to discuss a series of Amendments which, by confession of hon. Members opposite, could have been disposed of in one hour. [Cries of "No."] In any case the Government had no intention whatever to yield a point in the matter, because they were perfectly right. He was happy to gather that the right hon. Gentleman and his friends were not going to carry on the struggle any longer [OPPOSITION cries of "We will"], and if that was so, the Government would be relieved and pleased. Should the case be otherwise, however, the Government would insist upon proceeding with the programme they had indicated.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that his experience of the House was a long one, but he had never listened to a more infelicitous speech and a more infelicitous intervention by a Leader of the House. He appealed to hon. Members as a whole to say whether he had not put the case of the Opposition in a moderate way; but how had he been met by the right hon. Gentleman? [AN HON. MEMBER: By a plain straightforward statement.] The right hon. Gentleman whose Government had deliberately—had at all events broken its pledge [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] expressed no regret, felt no regret, and was apparently the fortunate Leader of a Party which felt no regret. He would like to appeal in this matter to a Party in that House which had had many sharp collisions with every Government successively, but had always kept their pledges, and he ventured to say that they had listened with disgust and horror at the absolutely reckless repudiation of a Parliamentary pledge.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: If I am not mistaken, the right hon. Gentleman alludes to the Irish Party. We have during the hours since eleven o'clock last night shown our disgust and horror at the action of the Government by remaining up to support them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. and learned Gentleman mistook his point. He never doubted that the hon. and learned Gentleman was going to support the Government; but it did not follow that he approved of their conduct. The Prime Minister did not deny that so far as form was concerned he had broken his pledge. The only question was whether he had kept it in the spirit. What was the right hon. Gentleman's justification? That when he said the Third Reading was going to be taken on Thursday he intended Committee to be taken on Wednesday and the Second Reading on Tuesday. In answer to an appeal he ventured to make, the right hon. Gentleman altered the Second Reading from Tuesday, which was only half a day, to Monday, which was a whole day, and he contended that that carried with it by implication the alteration of the Third Reading. It was not on implications of that kind that public business could be conducted. If the Third Reading Stage needed to be altered they ought to have had notice of that alteration. The right hon. Gentleman had said that it was out of pure kindness to the Opposition that he had transferred the Second Reading from Tuesday to Monday. It was, indeed, the result of an appeal made by him, but that could never have been carried out if the Opposition had not agreed to the preliminary stage which made it possible to take the Second Reading on Monday. As the Opposition did not object to that preliminary stage, the Government were able to advance their business by a day. Nothing occurred which justified the right hon. Gentleman in without notice violently altering the programme. It was impossible to conduct the business of the House smoothly and without friction unless every Party felt that they had the fullest right to rely on the spirit and the letter of any statement with regard to business made by the Leader of the House. On more than one occasion last session slight difficulties arose, and he was sorry to say that a difficulty had arisen again. The right hon. Gentleman, so far from admitting that he had unintentionally done some wrong, seemed to think all the wrong was on the side of the Opposition. He had said that whilst they admitted that the business of the Army Annual Bill could be done in an hour they had taken a great many hours over it. Who had admitted that it could be done in an hour? [Cries of "Banbury" and "Roberts."]

Sir F. BANBURY rose to make a personal explanation. He said that at half-past eleven o'clock the night before he rose in his place, and pointed out that if the Government would take the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill on Thursday the Opposition would endeavour to meet them in discussing the Army Annual Bill. He added that he did not suppose they would sit much after twelve or one o'clock, but the hon. Member for West Derby Division of Liverpool at once dissented from that view.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he challenged the statement that anyone on that side of the House said the Bill could properly be discussed in an hour. [Cries of "Roberts."] He appealed to past experience and practice. He knew indeed of no case in previous years in which the House had commenced the consideration of the Army (Annual) Bill at two in the morning. He did not know why the present Opposition should be supposed to have less to say on that Bill than their predecessors, who, though not embittered by any breach of pledges, had kept the House sitting till a fresh Parliamentary day had begun, not in one year, but in many years. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman's speech was either conciliatory in tone or reasonable in substance. However big his majority might be, he was not acting in the right way to get business through the House. He was not carrying on the traditions of his predecessors. Mr. Gladstone would never have done what the right hon. Gentleman had done. Unless they could regain some fresh confidence in the programmes of business which the right hon. Gentleman announced, he did not see how the harmony which, notwithstanding political differences, had always characterised that Assembly could be maintained.

Major SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said that since he was the hon. Member who was responsible for the various stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill not being taken on consecutive days on the occasion referred to by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition he would like to say a few words. He, for one, deprecated the statement that the Army Annual Bill could be discussed in one hour; it was a ridiculous assertion. The right hon. Gentleman would remember that it was on his request that in 1905 Votes A and 1 were interpolated between the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, and the reason was that it had been thought necessary owing to the congestion of business to put those Votes into the Closure Resolution; but as there were manifold changes proposed in the Army he suggested that those Votes should be taken out and discussed at another time. The right hon. Gentleman met him with great courtesy which he was always glad to acknowledge, and took out the Votes from the Closure Resolution. It was for that reason that in that year the various stages of the Bill were not taken on consecutive days.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 79; Noes, 321. (Division List No. 84.)

AYES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Cleland, J. W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down. North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H.

Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Albert Edward
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Hon. Right Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)

Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price,Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford,E.
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt.Hon. T. (Hawick,B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L.(Leeds,S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Williamson, A
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved a clause the object of which was to alter the terms of Clause 42 of the Act in order to give an officer the same right of redress as was possessed by the private soldier. In former years this had been a favourite Amendment of right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. The very desirable alteration which he proposed was that an officer who suffered, or considered he suffered, through the wrong of his superior officer should have the right to have the matter inquired into by the Commander-in-Chief and redress granted to him.

New Clause (Amendment of Section 42 as to redress of wrongs complained of by officer)—(*Mr. W. Rutherford*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE thought the Amendment, if carried, would deprive the officer who considered he had a right of redress for some act of his superior officer of his best chance of getting justice, because the complaint would go to the Commander-in-Chief, who would be the sole judge whether or not redress should be given. Under the present system the Commander-in-Chief was required to make a statutory report, which came before the Secretary of State. That was a desirable procedure in that it secured the attention of some one absolutely independent to the matter.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he had given the right hon. Gentleman the opportunity of doing a piece of justice and he had declined to accept it. He had no option, therefore, in view of the numerical majority behind the right hon. gentleman, but to ask leave to withdraw the clause.

Leave to withdraw the clause refused.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 68; Noes, 306. (Division List No. 85.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. T. L. Corbett and Mr. Claude Hay.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, George William
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinstd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt, Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro

Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gywnn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Lief (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras, E.
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold

Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick, A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H.Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston
Mainham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson,Sir G.Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)

Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hon. A.Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved a new clause to provide that no recruit under 18 years of age should be enlisted, and that each recruit should produce his birth certificate or other satisfactory evidence of his age. He desired to give the right hon. Gentleman an opportunity of carrying out the expressed wishes of many of his supporters. Moreover, as the Government had declared their intention of reducing the Army, one of the best ways of effecting such a reduction was to stop the enlistment of undesirable and immature recruits.

New Clause (Addition to Part II. of Army Act as to age of enlistment)—(*Mr. William Rutherford*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE said there might be circumstances under which it would be possible to look for recruits at an even later age than 18. If they could be got at 19, or even older, it would be of great advantage to the Army, and would be in accordance with the practice of the best foreign armies. But the War Office must cut their coat according to their cloth and must frame their regulations according to the necessities of the case. Accordingly, to stereotype the age at 18 would not only be embarrassing in present circumstances, but would not represent the best age at which recruiting could take place. It was much better and more convenient from every point of view to fix the age from time to time according to circumstances.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD explained that the object of the clause was not to fix the age for recruiting, but to lay down an age below which recruiting should not take place.

MR. HALDANE said that an emergency could be conceived in which it might be desirable to take recruits at another age and train them. The effect of the proposal would be to take away the power of making regulations to suit varying circumstances, and that would be a retrograde step.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 69; Noes, 292. (Division List No. 86.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Major J. B.
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Mr. Claude Hay.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork. S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.

Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones. William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Phillip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)

Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley aud Mr. J. A. Pease.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY moved a new clause dealing with Section 81 of the Army Act, his purpose being to allow a recruit who repented of his bargain within three months of enlistment to obtain his discharge on payment of £5 instead of £10. He submitted that £10 was an excessive amount to charge a recruit under the circumstances, seeing that only a very small amount could have been spent on his training. A payment of £5 would be quite sufficient for the purposes of the Government, and more within the means of those who would have to make it.

New Clause (Power to recruit to purchase discharge)—(*Viscount Helmsley*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HALDANE said the figure of £10 was fixed some time ago after careful consideration; the system had worked well in practice, and as it was impossible to say what the effect of the change proposed would be in the way of dislocating recruiting, he deprecated the Amendment. It was not desirable to encourage men lightly to withdraw from the obligation into which they had entered.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said that no reason whatever had been given to show that £5 would not be sufficient to meet the necessities of the case. If a young man found that he had no vocation to serve His Majesty in the Army it ought not to be made too difficult for him to withdraw. If men were unwilling they would never make good soldiers, but would give rise to more trouble than was involved in their withdrawal within three months of enlistment.

SIR GILBERT PARKER asked how many recruits in the course of a year purchased their discharge within three months of enlistment. Most men who enlisted had not £10, and it would be practically as difficult for them to raise the smaller sum of £5; therefore the question of encouraging withdrawals from obligations incurred hardly arose.

MR. HALDANE said the Committee were under the disadvantage of having to consider clauses which were not on the Paper; hence he had had no opportunity of obtaining such information as that asked for by the hon. Member for Gravesend.

MR. CLAUDE HAY pointed out that the Government had only themselves to thank for having to deal with Amendments without notice. It was not until 4 o'clock on the previous afternoon that Members had the opportunity of ascertaining the right hon. Gentleman's own views on the Bill.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 74; Noes, 309. (Division List No. 87).

AYES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmooa-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowerman, C. W.

Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'ng'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G, Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Ed'd's
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Helmsley and Mr. Lonsdale.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. L.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W, Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Duckworth, James
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W E (Derbyshire, N. E
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon

Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sr James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Rt.HnLt-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn.Walter (Dublin,S
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Maclean, Donald
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C.(Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E.(Edinburgh, Central
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V.H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilton, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Schedule 1:—

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he wished to raise a point of order of considerable constitutional importance. By the First Schedule of the Army Act of last year the total amount payable per day to a soldier was 5s. 8d. That could be verified by any hon. Member who cared to obtain the Act of last year and add up the schedule. If, however, they added up the schedule proposed to be incorporated in the present Bill they would find that the amount came to 6s. 3d. per head. He did not raise any objection to the extra 7d. as far as it went, but he wished to point out that it would amount on the whole to a very considerable expenditure. It had been laid down by Sir Erskine May that whenever a measure was submitted to the House the object of which was to increase the drain upon the public funds, it was necessary before the Bill could be read a second time that Resolutions should be submitted, such Resolutions to be recommended by His Majesty's Government—by the Crown—and submitted to, and approved of by Committee of the House. The same practice went a step further and dealt distinctly with cases where Bills were brought forward which had not got for their object a drain upon the public funds, but which proposed in a small way to create an increased charge. He contended that the Bill, having as it had the material object of increasing the cost per head by 7d., made a distinct additional charge upon the public funds. The consideration of the schedule was the proper place to consider the point he had raised. They could not, he contended, proceed with this particular part of the Committee's work; it must be postponed and a Resolution brought forward and considered by the Whole House, in accordance with Parliamentary practice, before they could proceed to deal with the schedule.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member should have raised his point upon consideration of Clause 3 of the Bill, but he would decide the matter apart from that and upon its own grounds. In his opinion the schedule did not make any definite charge, but only allowed payments to be made out of moneys provided in the Estimates if accommodation were provided. Again, the schedule had been increased in like manner on previous Bills, and, therefore, a precedent had already been established for the increase proposed under the schedule of the present Bill. There had never been any financial Resolution preparatory to the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that when Clause 3 was before the House he was called on to move his Amendment embodying the point he had just raised, but he was closured before he had said six words.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 8, at beginning to insert the word 'hot.'"—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 2:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 24, after the word 'breakfast' to insert the word 'hot.'" — (*Mr. Haldane.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 3:—

MR. CLAUDE HAY moved to omit from line 23, the words "or in a public prison.'" He said he had brought forward this Amendment in order that the Secretary of State for War might give some information as to what the arrangements were to prevent soldiers being committed to local prisons if, after they had served their sentence, they were going to rejoin the Army. It would be within the memory of the right hon. Gentleman and those hon. Members who were in the last Parliament that this subject was then much debated, and that considerable feeling was aroused in the matter. It was found that owing to an insufficiency of accommodation in the military prisons throughout the country, military prisoners had to be sent into civil prisons. He held very strongly that if a soldier was committed for a substantial period to a civil prison such punishment rendered him unfit to rejoin the Army.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 33, to leave out the words 'or in a public prison.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

MR. HALDANE replied that if a soldier were sentenced for an offence which caused him to be sent to a civil prison and the case was a serious one, he was discharged from the Army. That was done not by any Act of Parliament but by virtue of an executive authority which military authorities possessed. Therefore, the power being an executive one the provisions of the Act were put in general terms.

MR. CLAUDE HAY thought it was much to be regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not informed the Committee what the principle was in regard to soldiers who had been put into civil prisons and returned to the Army after the expiration of their sentences; for what offences soldiers were sent by the military authorities to civil prisons. If the right hon. Gentleman could promise that the matter would be seriously tackled and provision made to remove such a stain from the Army he would withdraw his Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 325; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 88.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ. Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'wr'Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras,
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. HerbertJohn
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hervey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.

Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Roe, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Wor.
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.E'm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
King,Sir Henry Seymour (Hull
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred

Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Claude Hay and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I rise to move the adjournment of the House. In doing so I would say that the House will meet on Saturday for the purpose of getting the Speaker out of the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates. I have another announcement to make, which I hope the House will allow me to make, upon this occasion. It is with reference to the Channel Tunnel Bill. A noble friend of mine, some time ago, said he would ask a Question in another place as to the policy of the Government in the matter. This question has been fixed for to-day. Yesterday the hon. Member for the Limehouse Division of Tower Hamlets had a Question upon the Paper to the same effect. I will now inform the House the course the Government intend to pursue in regard to the Channel Tunnel Bill. I asked my hon. friend to postpone his Question until to-day in order that the information might be given in the two Houses at the same time. Events, however, have occurred to-day which put Questions out of the question. I have thought it would not be respectful to the House if any information on this subject were given in one House and not in the other. Therefore, if the House will allow me, I will give the Answer :—"His Majesty's Government fully recognise the deep concern felt in this matter, and have no other desire than to take the House fully into their confidence, even in anticipation of the early stages of the Bill. Briefly I may say that our view of the public interest leads us to be opposed to this project of a tunnel. Even supposing the military dangers involved were to be amply guarded against, there would exist throughout the country a feeling of insecurity which might lead to a constant demand for increased expenditure, naval and military, and a continual risk of unrest and possibly alarm, which, however unfounded, would be most injurious in its effect, whether political or commercial. On the other hand, there has not been disclosed any such prospect of advantage to the trade and industries of the country as would compensate for those evils. As to the personal convenience of passengers and the transit of light articles, it seems well that further consideration should be given to other means of conveyance, such as are used in the ferries across great channels of the sea in other parts of the world. These considerations lead us, while rejoicing in anything that facilitates free communication with our neighbours, to view this project with disfavour."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As regards the last part of the right hon. Gentleman's statement I do not need discuss it. I may, however, be permitted to express, on my own behalf and on behalf of right hon. and hon. Members on this side of the House, great satisfaction at the declaration of policy which His Majesty's Government have just made. As regards the first part of the right hon. Gentleman's statement, which deals with more immediate affairs, I understand that he will put down a Motion to be taken at 12 o'clock to-morrow with regard to the Saturday sitting, and that if a Saturday sitting is agreed to by the House, the proposal is to get the Speaker out of the Chair and to take no further business.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-four minutes before Six o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 21*st March*, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [H.L.]. Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received and ordered to lie on the Table.

Midland Railway Bill [H.L.]. Petition for additional provision; of the Midland Railway Company under their Common Seal, together with the proposed clauses and Amendments annexed thereto; read, and referred to the Examiners.

Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (ESTIMATES).

Approximate Estimate of expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Statement showing the numbers and salaries of teachers in voluntary schools in England and Wales, for the year ended 31st July, 1906.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Annual Report of proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., etc., for the year 1906.

CONGESTION IN IRELAND (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Third Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Minutes of Evidence taken in London, 3rd to 20th November, 1906, and documents relating thereto).

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

ARMY (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).

Statement of the amount due by the public to depositors on 31st March, 1905, and of the receipts, interest, and disbursements during the year ended 31st March, 1906, etc. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 1st December, 1906 (and sealed on the 7th December, 1906), amending Statute III., Clause 11, of the statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Oriel College, Oxford, on the 11th October, 1906, and sealed on the 29th November, 1906), amending Statute VI., 5, of the statutes of the college.

Laid before the House, (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. [No. 22.]

NEW BILLS.

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS BILL [H.L.]. (No. 23.)

A Bill to extend the Destructive Insects Act, 1877, to all pests destructive to crops, trees, or bushes. And,

SALMON AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES BILL [H.L.]. (No. 24.)

A Bill to enable Provisional Orders to be made for regulating salmon and fresh-water fisheries.

Were presented by the Earl Carrington; read 1^{a}; and to be printed.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^{a}.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY rose "To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any definite policy to announce with regard to the construction of the Channel Tunnel; and to move for Papers." The noble Earl said: My Lords, I have to thank my noble friend, Lord Wemyss, for giving me priority for my Question, and I promise not to detain your Lordships a minute in asking it, as I propose only to ask it in the House of Commons fashion, without any comment on the subject-matter of it. My main difficulty has been, where I was to ask it from. I am afraid I am not in active communion with either of the Front Benches, and yet I am so accustomed to this Table that I am more than loath to leave it. My noble friend the Duke of Devonshire, under somewhat similar circumstances, addressed the House from the end of the Table on the other side, but I am given to understand that by the inscrutable provisions of this House that end of the Table is no more a part of the House than it is a part of Stonehenge; and therefore one must either address the House from one side of the Table or the other, and I must ask the courtesy of my noble friends behind me to allow me to speak here, † for it is more convenient to ask a Question face to face than by turning one's back to the questionee.

I put this Question down a long time ago at the opening of Parliament for this simple reason. I was not able to attend the sittings of Parliament, and it struck me that during the very interesting debates on the Address one of the most important topics which might have engaged the interest of His Majesty's Government was omitted—this topic of the Channel Tunnel. I therefore wrote to Lord Ripon to ask his permission to put it to him, but for divers reasons, some concerning him and some concerning me, I have not been able to put the Question until this moment. I do not know what the intentions of His Majesty's Government are, but I do think it a matter of great importance that they should not keep the public any longer in ignorance of them. Whether they be opponents of the measure who consider it a vital matter of policy, or whether they be promoters of the measure to whom every day's delay means enormous expenditure, I think there is a claim on behalf of the public to know what is the policy of His Majesty's Government in this matter. I will, therefore, simply ask the Question of which I have given notice, moving also for any Papers which may be pertinent to the matter and which may be presented to Parliament consistently with the public interest.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I desire to join my noble friend in thanking the noble Earl, Lord Wemyss, for allowing this Question to be taken as the first Order to-day. It seems to me that his courtesy involves a corresponding obligation on our part not to stand longer than we can possibly help between him and the Motion which he has next on the Paper. That subject is one of great importance, it is one in which the noble Earl takes a keen interest, and I understand that there are many noble Lords who desire to say something upon it. In these circumstances, I venture to appeal to noble Lords in all parts of the House, whatever view they may take of the statement which I am about to make, and whether they approve or disapprove of it, that they should not attempt to institute anything like a debate on this occasion. From that point of view the matter cannot be regarded as urgent, and any noble Lord who wishes to raise the question again can easily find an opportunity of doing so after the Easter recess. With regard to what my noble friend on the Cross Benches said about the position from which he addressed the House, I can only say that, although we are always very glad to have him on our side, at the same time—and I am sure I am saying what is in the minds of everybody in the House—we are also always glad to hear him from whatever part of the House he may desire to speak.

I will simply confine myself to making a statement similar to that which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister either has made, or is about to make, in another place; and I have to say that His Majesty's Government fully recognise the deep concern felt in this matter, and they have no other desire than to take Parliament fully into their confidence even in anticipation of the early stages of a Bill which has been introduced in another place. I may say, briefly, that our view of the public interest leads us to be opposed to the project of the Channel Tunnel. Even supposing that the military dangers involved were to be amply guarded against, there would, in our opinion, exist throughout the country a feeling of insecurity which might lead to constant demands for increased expenditure, both naval and military, and a continual condition of unrest, and possibly even of alarm, which, however unfounded, would be most injurious in its effects, both political and commercial. On the other hand, there has not been disclosed any such prospect of advantage to the trade and industry of this country as would compensate for these evils.

---

† His Lordship was standing at the Opposition side of the Table.

As to the personal convenience of passengers and the transit of light articles, it seems well that further consideration should be given to other means of conveyance, such as are used, for instance, in ferries across great channels of the sea in other parts of the world. These considerations lead us, while rejoicing in anything that facilitates freer communication with our neighbours, to view the project with disfavour. In reply to my noble friend's Motion for Papers, I have to say that I regret we are not able to lay any Papers on the Table. Practically the only documents which would be of interest in the matter are memoranda of the Defence Committee, which, as the House will fully understand, are of a purely confidential character, and cannot therefore be produced.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I shall certainly be guided by the advice of the noble Earl who has just addressed you, and stand for as short a time as possible between the House and the interesting debate in which we shall presently take part; but I think it would be scarcely decent that this subject should be passed by without a word from these Benches, and I have, as the House is perhaps aware, a particular reason for taking on interest in it.

I had the honour twenty-four years ago of presiding over the Joint Committee of the two Houses upon this subject, and I plead guilty to having been the author of a Report in which the construction of the tunnel was favoured. I was supported by the late Lord Aberdare, the late Mr. Baxter, and my noble friend Lord Peel, who is, I think, not in his place this evening. I am bound to say that the arguments which convinced me in 1883 do not appear to me nearly so convincing at the present moment. I remain of opinion that the tunnel would be of very great convenience to that portion of the public which desires to cross the Channel, and I certainly should not speak slightingly of the sufferings which a portion of that public has to undergo. I am reminded of a saying of a gifted Irish authoress, who once said that she wondered why people were so apt to ridicule those who suffered from seasickness. She said that to her seasickness always presented itself in one of two lights. It was either pathetic or disgusting—pathetic if she was seasick herself, disgusting if anybody else was. Nor do I think we ought to put on one side too hastily the commercial advantages of such means of communication. And, besides that, I am attracted, as I think everybody must be, by the prospect of an addition to the many great triumphs over natural obstacles which our engineers are able to achieve, and which, I have no doubt, they would achieve in the present instance.

Passing from that to other considerations I still believe that it should be possible, humanly speaking, to render almost certain the denial of the tunnel to a foreign adversary. But I am bound to say that if the chances of its being used against us were only as one in a hundred, or one in a thousand, I do not think that the people of this country would tolerate an operation which would oblige us to run that hundredth or that thousandth chance. That is the real question. We may be able to convince ourselves that we should run no risk, but I do not believe that we shall ever convince the public that that is so. And if that is true it follows that we should, by allowing this tunnel to be built, occasion not only a new source of anxiety in time of peace, but a grave additional cause of anxiety when war was going on, or when war was imminent. We can picture to ourselves, without very much difficulty, the condition of things which would arise if we were engaged in war with a great Power, or if such a war were imminent. We can think of disturbed trade, of rising prices, of interrupted communications—perhaps in the absence of the Fleet engaged in another part of the world; of the terror of invasion, of the prospect of raids, of the clamour for measures of protection. Well, my Lords, if to all these causes of anxiety we were to superadd the apprehension which I have no doubt would be created by the presence of this tunnel, we should make the position, already grave and anxious enough, doubly grave and doubly anxious.

It is upon these grounds, which I am almost inclined to describe as of a sentimental character, that I base my conclusion, rather than upon strategical or historical considerations. I am inclined to think that we have rather wasted our time in the examination of historical precedents. It does not seem to me that it would at all follow that because in the past war has been waged according to certain rules, that the rules of the game should necessarily be observed in the future. I know that I have myself been taken to task lately on account of a statement made in the Report of the Committee to which I referred just now—a statement which was alluded to the other evening by my noble friend Lord Lovat—I mean, a statement in which we referred to the seizure of the Danish Fleet by this country in the year 1807. That occurrence was put on one side by us upon the ground that it was justified by the discovery by the English Government of the secret articles of the Treaty of Tilsit, by which the Navy of Denmark had been put at the disposal of France. It has been represented to me that on that point our history was incorrect, and there is, perhaps, some truth in that, because, I believe, the secret Articles of the Treaty of Tilsit were not known to the Government of this country until many years afterwards. But what the Government of the day did know was that the condition of Europe was extremely disturbed, that the minor Powers were threatened and would, in all probability, be drawn into the vortex of war. We believed that Denmark would be unable to maintain her neutrality, and accordingly — resorting, no doubt, to rough and ready methods—we sent an ultimatum to Denmark, and, as that ultimatum did not produce the desired effect, we seized her fleet.

But, as I said just now, the question of precedents does not seem to me very greatly to matter. To my mind we are concerned not with the past, but with the present; and so far as the present is concerned I am bound to say that, having regard to the state of public opinion on the subject of the Channel Tunnel, having regard to the fact that its construction would create something like general dismay in this country, I do not think the noble Earl opposite could have given any Answer other than that which he has just addressed to the House.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I withdraw my Motion for Papers.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS rose to move the following Resolution:—"That this House, having three years ago successfully opposed the absorption of the Militia into the Regular Army, is now of opinion that the proposed amalgamation of the Militia and Volunteers in a 'speculative' so-called 'national army' is a wrongful ignoring of the good service rendered by the Militia in the past, and of its capabilities in the future, while it would fail to secure a reliable force for home defence."

The noble Earl said: My Lords, I would ask your kind indulgence while I endeavour, as shortly as I can, to give the reasons for the Motion which I have placed on the Paper, and which I hope will be satisfactory to your Lordships. I do not intend to go into the general questions raised by the Army Bill, nor to consider whether it is, or is not, desirable in the interests of the nation, seeing the state of armaments abroad, where millions of men can, in a few hours, be made ready for war, that we should reduce the strength of our Regular Army. That is a moot point on which persons can form their own opinion. I have a strong one myself, which is that it is not advisable in present circumstances to do so.

*It is more particularly to the Militia that I wish to call your Lordships' attention. We know that the Secretary of State for War proposes, with the fairy's wand of an Act of Parliament, to transform the whole of the Auxiliary Forces into what he calls a Territorial Army. The Militia, the Yeomanry, and the Volunteers—three single gentlemen—are to be rolled into one. I think it would be well for your Lordships to consider on what the present Auxiliary Forces rest, what is their base, and then compare that with the base on which this Territorial Army is supposed to rest. What is the base upon which the Militia rests? It is compulsion and nothing less. That is the foundation of our military system for home defence.

Last year the Secretary of State for War, in one of his speeches in the country, said that he intended to give the nation an Army on purely British principles. I ventured in your Lordships' House at the time to traverse the soundness of that view, and to show that purely British principles were absolutely the converse of what the right. hon. gentleman intended. For the whole gist and soul of the British military system is compulsion for home defence. You cannot get out of that. I very much doubt whether there is any such principle, or any principle you can trust, in regard to the Territorial Army. The Government are about to destroy a force resting upon compulsion, upon every man being bound, if called upon by the King, to serve his country, and we are to be left merely with the hope of the author of the scheme that the people of this country will sacrifice themselves by taking to military duties in preference to football, cricket, and other games. They now go in untold thousands to see men in the mud playing football with their heads, but they give no thought to the defence of their country. Will this Bill, without compulsion, induce them to change? I very much doubt it. Therefore, you are getting rid of a system which is sound in every way, and establishing in its place one which has no foundation of any sort whatever.

Such being the case, I have put down this Motion, which in the first place refers to what the House did three years ago. Your Lordships then prevented the absorption of the Militia in the Regular Army. The present proposal is for the absorption of the Militia in a nondescript Territorial Army. My Motion next refers to the good service rendered by the Militia in the past. I need not dwell upon that, for it is written on every page of our history. Nor need I dwell on the capabilities of the Militia in the future if properly worked, for those capabilities are untold. I now come to the point—Why is the Militia to be got rid of? What is the reason? On what principle do you do it? Mr. Haldane says it is moribund and anæmic. I admit that. But why is it moribund? Why is it anæmic? Because you do not give it its due. It is entitled by law to a certain amount of food in the shape of flesh and blood. But it is not given that food. You have not the courage to exercise the power you have of filling the Militia. You keep it starved, and then complain that it is anæmic. The Secretary of State for War himself would become anæmic and moribund if he did not get his daily food. If the existing law were enforced all your military problems would fall by the way, and the country would be made invulnerable.

Having got rid of the Militia and substituted this other force for it, what do you get? Do you get a reliable force? You certainly do not. When the Secretary of State first went about the country explaining his ideas, he asked for 700,000 or 900,000 Volunteers, but now he is satisfied with a mixed lot of only 300,000 men. I do not know why. But I dare any one to say that with the training proposed the Territorial Army will be fit to contend with the picked troops it might have to meet in battle. Then the idea that an enemy would give us six months notice before commencing hostilities is ridiculous. They will come like a bolt from the blue. Read Kuropatkin's account of the battles in Manchuria. He states that Port Arthur was not sufficiently garrisoned. Why? Because the Russian Blue Water School believed in the impregnability of their fleet. And what happened? That fleet was sent to the bottom without a declaration of war of any sort or kind, and the officers and men of that fleet, when the ships were being sunk, were on shore socially enjoying themselves. If we have a big war it will be on that principle.

This scheme is absolutely condemned. And by whom? By its author. For Mr.

Haldane himself said it was speculative. There is no speculation about getting rid of what you have. That is a certainty. But what is to take its place is an absolute speculation. In making that statement I am only quoting the words of the Secretary of State for War himself. I venture to think that the questions at issue are too serious to be left in this way to speculation. You cannot speculate with certain things—at least you ought not—least of all should you speculate with the defence of this country. The stakes are too high to permit of any game of speculation. For what are the stakes? The stakes are neither more nor less than hearth, home, and Empire, and I hope, if the Bill comes up to this House, that your Lordships will decline to enter into a speculative enterprise when those are the stakes that have to be played for.

I noticed in the newspapers the other day that Lord Beauchamp, in discussing Lord Avebury's pet subject, Sunday trading, said there was a time when he himself was very anxious, as far as possible, to suppress Sunday trading. He said—

> "I was then acting and speaking with the courage of ignorance."

But as he got more information he became wiser, and was not so keen for suppressing Sunday trading. What strikes me is that to get rid of our old constitutional Militia, to tear up by the roots our military system, is more than courageous—it is audacious, but it is the audacity of moral cowardice, for it is done simply to avoid compulsion. If the country were asked they would gladly submit to the ballot, but the Secretary of State is afraid to ask them.

Your Lordships some years ago passed a sensible Resolution to the effect that, putting the Navy aside, this country should be so strong at home in land defence that no nation would ever in any form attempt a hostile landing on our shores. I suggest that your Lordships should bear that wise Resolution, which was passed unanimously, well in mind, and whenever a Bill of any kind dealing with home defence comes before you, test it by that Resolution. As regards this Bill, if it is carried in its present form, including the Militia, my conviction is that the country will be in a state of chronic alarm, knowing that it has no means of meeting any attempt that might be made against it.

I have received a wire from my military adviser. The noble Lord the Under-Secretary of State for War is always talking of his military advisers; therefore why should I not quote mine? My military adviser is Lord Wolseley, and I will back him against the military advisers of the Government any day. What does Lord Wolseley say? He wires from Rome that he is in hearty agreement with my views and looks upon this territorial Army as nothing but insanity. I have nothing more to say, but to move the Motion which stands in my name.

Moved "That this House, having three years ago successfully opposed the absorption of the Militia into the Regular Army, is now of opinion that the proposed amalgamation of the Militia and Volunteers in a 'speculative,' so called, 'national Army' is a wrongful ignoring of the good service rendered by the Militia in the past and of its capabilities in the future, while it would fail to secure a reliable force for home defence."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

*THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: My Lords, I venture to intervene in this debate for the purpose of asking His Majesty's Government for some information concerning their intentions towards the Militia force, and also for the purpose of conveying to them the feeling of that force, so far as I know it, in regard to some of the proposals which have already been made. The Militia is so closely connected with the Regular Army that you cannot touch the one without affecting the other. Our military history shows that since the re-organisation of the Militia by Mr. Pitt the force has never failed the country in the hour of need. It is an accepted fact that without the support of the Militia the Regular Army could never have brought to a satisfactory conclusion any of our great campaigns.

In our recent campaign in South Africa the Militia was our only military force which was able to provide complete units of itself for active service, and that after having sent many of its best officers and men to the Line. All the 124 infantry Militia battalions of the United Kingdom were embodied, and thirty-two units of artillery, and two regiments of engineers. For every Militia battalion embodied at home a Line battalion is liberated for service abroad. There served in South Africa sixty-one battalions of infantry, and, in the Mediterranean and Egypt, nine battalions. In addition to these, nine companies of garrison artillery, and three and a half companies of engineers served abroad. The number of officers and men of the Militia who served in South Africa, in Egypt, and in the dependencies abroad exceeds a total of 100,000. In addition, the Regular forces employed in South Africa must have drawn by transfers fully 50,000 men from the Militia. The Militia probably supplied in all not less than 120,000 men for the purposes of the war, a contribution far in excess of that made by the Yeomanry, Volunteers, and over-sea Colonial contingents together.

It is the case, I know not why, that both at home and abroad, both in peace and in war, the Militia is judged not by its best battalions, but by its worst. There are good battalions now at home, but it is always of the battalions greatly below their strength that we hear. Some battalions deprived by the Line of their best officers and men, may have been a cause of anxiety to general officers in South Africa. It is, I believe, the general impression that the Militia did little in South Africa, except cause anxiety to general officers on lines of communication. As the Militia is now being weighed in the balance, and seems likely to be condemned as wanting for the purposes of war, I hope your Lordships will allow me to mention some of their services in action during the South African War. In his address at Kroonstad, on the departure of the 3rd battalion, The Buffs, for St. Helena, General Sir W. G. Knox, K.C.B., said—

> "You have acquitted yourselves nobly, and I cannot recall one single instance in which you have failed me. Wherever I expected an attack and knew the 3rd Buffs were there, I always felt perfectly safe, and never had one moment's anxiety."

Sir A. Hunter said of this battalion that it was like a seasoned Line battalion. General Sir Charles Knox, in reference to the 3rd Battalion Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), said that—

> "The *esprit de corps* and the admirable system which prevails in the battalion leaves nothing to be desired, and might well serve as an example to many Line battalions I could name."

The battalion had formed part of a force under General Sir Charles Knox, and had marched nearly 700 miles in three months with much fighting. The 3rd Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) with a few Mounted Infantry, formed the garrison of the Zand River. They were attacked by about 800 of the enemy with two pom-poms and a field gun on 14th January, 1900, and signally defeated their assailants. Lord Kitchener issued orders thanking the regiment for their gallant conduct. The 6th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers joined General Settle's column and took part in a fight at Luckoff on 28th November, 1900, when the enemy's position was cleared by this Militia Battalion at the point of the bayonet in such a manner as to occasion the following appearing in the General's orders—

> "The final assault, which contributed to the rout of the Boers, was highly creditable to the Battalion;"

the record adding—

> "It fell to the lot of few Militia units to take part in an engagement of this character, and the skilful and intelligent manner in which the Battalion carried out the attack showed what Militiamen can do when given the opportunity."

The Militia, in common with all other forces, met with disaster. The 4th Derby Militia was compelled to surrender at Rhenoster. They were attacked by a superior force of the enemy supported by five guns. They were without any artillery support. They fought on till their commanding officer was killed, and they had lost 140 men killed and wounded. *The Times* history of the war says—

> "They made a brave fight, though it was hopeless from the first."

With regard to the 4th Battalion the Cameronian (Scottish Rifles), Major General Paget, in his Report, commented on their steadiness and pluck at Lieukop under a heavy shell fire, enough to shake the nerves of any but the best troops. The 4th Battalion the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment) successfully defended Fraserburg. General French complimented the garrison for their successful resistance, and thanked the troops for their splendid behaviour. This battalion subsequently occupied eighty miles of blockhouses, and before leaving for home General French addressed the Battalion and accorded all ranks high praise for their arduous and self-sacrificing labours throughout the campaign. A subaltern of the 4th Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) with thirty men, on 23rd February, 1901, successfully held Fish River bridge and station for four hours against an attack made by 250 of the enemy until the armoured train came to their assistance. Lord Kitchener telegraphed his congratulations—

> "Gallantly maintaining the defence, and continuously refusing to surrender."

Corporal Cummings, of the 3rd Battalion Royal Scots, with a small piquet, successfully maintained his position against fifty Boers on 12th January, 1901. Lance-Corporal McKinnon and six men of the same regiment were attacked by 100 Boers when holding a small post near Hallfontein, but drove the enemy off. Both these men were specially commended for gallantry in the field by the General Officer commanding communications, Orange River Colony Kroonstad, in his Divisional Orders.

There are many more favourable mentions of the Militia in action; 226 Militia Officers were mentioned in despatches, and 245 non-commissioned officers and men. His Majesty's Government have spent a year in passing in review the military forces of the country, and appraising the value of each for the purposes of war. In spite of the facts that I have just mentioned, in spite of the lessons of military history which prove the supreme value of the Militia in time of war, they have concluded not to reorganise and restore, but to disorganise and destroy, the force. I hope that His Majesty's Government may be able to tell us the reasons which led to that decision.

The Militia is the only force we have which can, on the declaration of war, carry out the expansion of the Regular Army at home and abroad by organised units. This most important duty the Militia has always efficiently discharged in the past. By abolishing the Militia, His Majesty's Government not only reject as valueless the finding of the Royal Commission on the South African War as to the imperative need for organised expansion outside the limits of the Regular Army. They do much more than that. They decide to destroy the only force which has never failed to supply that organised expansion outside the Regular Army on the necessity of which the Royal Commission insists. It is true that the Secretary of State for War hopes at some distant time the new territorial force may number some 800,000 or 900,000 men, and will take the field abroad in complete divisions for the expansion of the Regular Army. All that we know for certain about the territorial force is that it has no existence at present, and, when it does appear, it is to be confined by Act of Parliament to the United Kingdom.

Nothing which by any stretch of the imagination could be called an Army can be evolved for many years out of the chaos which will be created by the proposed scheme, and then only if the present Government and successive Governments are prepared to spend enormous sums of money on all the equipment, the subsidiary services, the adjuncts and the highly trained officers essential for an Army. No training is to be given to the territorial force until war has been declared. It would therefore be many months before any organised unit could be used to expand the Regular Army, and in the meantime a great part of that Army is tied down to its garrison duties both at home and abroad and cannot be employed in the actual theatre of war. Can the Government say why it is, in their opinion, advisable to deprive the Regular Army of all means of expansion until six months after war has been declared?

The natural results of the South African War upon the Militia was the depletion of all its ranks. No effort has been made on the part of successive military administrations to assist the Militia to recover from the drain made upon its resources by its enormous contribution to the South African War. Militia officers are fully aware of the deficiency of the force as at present organised. But they are agreed upon the remedies necessary to raise the whole force to a uniform standard of efficiency. We know precisely what is wanted, from the representation of the force upon the Army Council down to the bounty to be given to the recruit on first enlistment. None of the reforms which we advocate entail serious additional expense. None require the sanction of

Parliament, save the addition of a clause to the Militia Act of 1882 making the Militia available for foreign service on embodiment, a condition which we believe the Militia is prepared to accept, provided that the Act of 1882 remains otherwise unchanged. I do not propose at present to enter upon the reorganisation of the Militia, but I can assure your Lordships that we know exactly the measure which would restore power and vitality to the force.

The Militia is our oldest military organisation. The long continuity of its existence is a proof that it is a form of service congenial to the people of this country. Once destroyed, it can never be restored as a system. It affords a sure and solid foundation ready for the work of construction. His Majesty's Government reject construction on a solid foundation. They prefer to drop the substance which they have, in order to catch at the phantom forces of a speculative Army. All the Auxiliary Forces are to be amalgamated, and then called the territorial force. This force is to be a purely civilian force, administered on Volunteer lines, and will be the present Volunteer force under a new name. Inasmuch as there are no Volunteers in Ireland, the Irish Militia must be separated from what has hitherto been the Militia of the United Kingdom and become a separate force. As far as I understand, the Irish Militia is to be enlisted for foreign service and made liable for drafting to the line.

The Militia in Great Britain is asked to change its conditions of service from that of a paid military force serving under the Army Act to that of a civilian force conducted on Volunteer lines, to be paid only for a week or a fortnight if a camp should happen to be held. There is to be no preliminary recruit training. Company drill and musketry practice is to be carried on throughout the year out of the men's spare time. The question is, Will the Militia Officers and men be able to accept these changed conditions of service? How can the men accept them? The Militia is recruited from among the working and labouring classes. A labouring man may possibly get every alternate Saturday afternoon to himself. Is it reasonable to expect that man to give up his few hours of fortnightly holiday in order to attend company drill, or possibly to travel, at considerable expense to himself, across his county to get to a rifle range? Not only will he receive no pay, and be out of pocket for travelling expenses, but he will lose the chance of profitable employment on that afternoon. An annual training of four weeks is a very different affair. Then the Militiaman gets his food, his daily pay, and his training bounty. He takes away with him useful clothing, such as boots, shirts, and socks. In addition, he receives his non-training bounty during the winter months. He is expected to give all that up for the sake of 1s. a day for a week or a fortnight, and to sacrifice all his spare time as well. Is a working man justified in playing the patriot at such a sacrifice to himself and to his family? I have heard it stated repeatedly of late that men cannot afford to come out for four consecutive weeks training. This is certainly not the case when the common-sense rule is applied of training during the slack season of the local industry. It is not true, in my experience, to say that the depletion in numbers of the Militia is due to the four weeks of training, or that working men cannot afford to serve in the Militia. They only cannot afford to do so when, as now proposed, they are expected to serve without pay.

It is equally impossible for Militia officers to serve on Volunteer lines. Possibly, in a Militia battalion, a quarter of the officers may be resident in the county. The rest are non-resident. Many of these may be connected with the county, or have friends in it, and be very glad indeed to return there for a month in each year. But how can officers, who are non-resident in the county, be expected to travel down at their own expense to the country villages for afternoon drills, or to go to remote rifle ranges and probably find that no men turn up for practice? In the event of men not appearing for drill or musketry, is any penalty to be inflicted? If a penalty is to be inflicted I cannot conceive any man's being so foolish as to enlist in the new force. On the other hand, if no penalty can be inflicted, then at once you arrive at a go-as-you-please, do-as-you-like state of affairs, which reduces military training to an absolute farce. Your Lordships will, I think, allow, on account of the reasons I have given, that service in the new territorial force is impossible alike for Militia officers and men.

I may inform your Lordships that since His Majesty's Government have announced their plans for the amalgamation of all the Auxiliary Forces, I have asked my brother Militia commanding officers the question, Do you consider it possible for the unit under your command to accept the conditions of service proposed by the Secretary of State for War? Those are the conditions I have just explained to your Lordships. One hundred and four have answered "No," and three have answered "Yes," and from fourteen I have had no replies. It is not a case of will not; it is a case of cannot. You are asking the impossible. You cannot convert a paid military force, recruited from among the labouring classes, into an unpaid civilian force, for the simple reason that working men cannot afford to serve not only without pay but at some expense to themselves. Soldiers in the Army and men in the Militia come from much the same class, but men in that class have different outlooks on life. Some prefer Regular soldiering and some prefer Militia soldiering. This is the class of men who in the past have won and maintained our Empire. They may be rather a rough lot. I have known some very rough diamonds among them. But they have a splendid fighting record, and our country has good reason to be grateful to them. The abolition of the Militia deprives the labouring classes, to whom we owe all our great military achievements, of a form of military service, outside the Regular Army, fitted to their condition of life.

But the Militiaman is to disappear. For the future we are to create a new force for the accommodation of a superior class of men, who have never been the back bone of British Armies. It is all very well to talk of converting Militia *cadres* into Volunteer battalions, whatever that may mean, or of turning the Irish Militia into drafting bodies for the Regular Army. But none of these changes are possible with the men now serving, except they are ready, which is most improbable, to change a bargain which suits them, and of which they cannot be deprived, for one which does not. At present a Militiaman receives about £7 a year. His Majesty's Government offer him 7s. a year in exchange. He will not accept. Militiamen now serving will not change their existing form of service. They will continue it till their time expires. Militia officers, as far as possible, will serve on with their men. But it will not be for long. I apprehend that within four years of cessation of enlistment for the Militia the force will die out, but during these four years it will be a drifting derelict, an impediment to reconstruction, useless for service, and consequently most costly to the country.

The Duke of Bedford.

The Militia has always been, and is now, the main feeder of the Line. In 1902 more than 18,000 men joined the Army from the Militia, but with the diminishing numbers of the Militia the number of transfers fell in 1905 to rather more than 12,000. About 20,000 recruits are required annually for the Line. Thus more than half the requisite supply comes at present from the Militia. If the Militia is abolished, it is certain that the Line will be, even in time of peace, unequal to their Imperial garrison duties.

As far as I understand, His Majesty's Government attempt to meet the recruiting difficulty for the Line due to the abolition of the Militia as follows. They intend to raise some seventy-four nucleus battalions, which will form a short-service, a very short-service, Regular Army. These men will not be Militiamen, but will belong to the infantry of the Line. The evolution of these nucleus battalions is most interesting. In time of peace these nucleus battalions will not be real military units, but only amorphous bodies inhabiting depots. On mobilisation these bodies, I do not know how else to describe them, will become the home and asylum for all the boys too young for foreign service, all the Reservists and men who are medically unfit, and all recruits. To this crowd will be added officers from the Reserve of officers. Finally the whole of this mass of unsound and unseasoned humanity will hatch out into seventy-four new Line battalions, designed by His Majesty's Government to be the Reserve, the support, and the backbone of the British infantry in the field. These seventy-four battalions can, at most, be but what are known in the Service as rag-bag battalions. But it is from these rag-bag battalions that in time of war the very first drafts for the regiments at the front will have to be furnished. The period of training in this new Home Service Army will be six months, and the age of enlistment seventeen. Thus a boy will be discharged from the new Home Service Army into the Regular Reserve at the age of seventeen-and-a-half. He will train for two weeks each year, I presume at the depot, because to send these short-service Reservists to train with any regiment at home would mean a great expense in travelling.

Not the least remarkable feature of this new Reserve is the fact that none of the men will ever have served with a regiment until they join one on active service. The depot is only a machine for shaping the raw material, not for fitting it in its place in the fighting line. They will go on service without ever having had any battalion training at all. Now, is it the opinion of the military advisers of His Majesty's Government that a regiment reinforced by some 600 or 700 of such short-service Reservists could possibly be fitted to remain in the first fighting line ?

These nucleus battalions are designed to serve a double purpose, which is perfectly impossible of accomplishment. The reason for enlisting seventeen-year old boys is to pass them into the Line in place of recruits now obtained from the Militia. But if you send these boys into the Line, then what happens to your Reserve ? Clearly you have turned all your Reserves into serving soldiers. If you stop them going into the Line, then how are you going to get those recruits for the Line which you have lost owing to the abolition of the Militia ? I hope His Majesty's Government may be able to suppply the solution of this puzzle. Except they can do so they must admit that they have no Reserve for the Line.

These nucleus battalions will have none of the attractions of a regiment. Men will never serve with the same comrades. They will never serve under the same officers or non-commissioned officers. They will be liable to be drafted abroad whenever the Reserve is called out. I cannot conceive any more absolutely unattractive form of soldiering. Indeed, it seems to me so very unattractive that except very generous terms are offered none but the conscripts of hunger will accept. No doubt if a man were actually starving he would say sooner than starve, "I will go and do six months in the barracks, and chance the rest." If you have neither the wit to attract, nor the power to compel, you must rely on hunger, and that is the great principle of recruiting from the gutter upon which His Majesty's Government rely for raising these new nucleus battalions, who are to be the support and reserve of the Regular Army. Militiamen now serving will certainly not transfer to these nucleus battalions. They have everything to lose and nothing to gain by so doing. Men are asked to leave their regiments and accept the liability for foreign service and for drafting, which they hate. I beg to ask if His Majesty's Government propose to begin recruiting for these short-service battalions at once, or whether they mean to postpone doing so till the existing Militia has died out ; also if they mean to offer any bounty or special terms to serving Militiamen to transfer to the new short-service Army.

Now, in the all-important problem of recruiting, some very interesting experiments have recently been made, from which all those, who, like myself, do all we can to support the voluntary principle, hoped for the very best results. The first experiment was due to civilian initiative, and was undertaken by Mr. Strachey, of the *Spectator* newspaper. He and others formed a company of 100 men, who agreed to train under Army conditions, and at Army rates of pay, for six months. Only one of the 100 men who first joined that company meant to go into the Army. Since their six months training, twenty-eight of these men offered to join the Army, and twenty six were accepted. The lesson in recruiting from that experiment is that if men have a chance of giving military training a trial a certain number will join the Army who would never otherwise have done so. The Militia affords men an opportunity of making a trial of soldiering. If they join the Militia for the six months preliminary drill, they know that after the end of the battalion training, when they have seen what soldiering is like, they can either transfer to the Regular Army or remain in the Militia, or buy their discharge for a sovereign. Many men join the Militia to see if they like soldiering or not. If they are well treated and made comfortable, many will pass on to the Regular Army.

At the present time experimental recruit training for six months is being carried out in the Militia. These experiments have proved the greatest success, and have suggested to the Government the idea of applying them to the short-service Army, where they are bound to prove a failure, because the Regular Army is not the Militia, and the conditions are wholly different. The battalion under my command is among those selected for this trial. I have now 170 recruits, who assembled in November, and who will go on training until the middle of June, that is, six months of recruits' training and one month of battalion training. I am confident that 70 per cent. of these recruits will pass on to the Line. Very few, however, would have enlisted straight into the Line. The plunge into unknown conditions of life, from which escape is difficult, is too great for any men, except they are impelled by dire necessity. They need a stepping stone, and this is supplied by the Militia. To make this system of recruiting a success, the men must assemble in the barracks of their own county and be made reasonably comfortable. This is the plan of recruiting for the Regular Army through the Militia without the aid of cold and starvation. No doubt it may be said that if you send seventy per cent. of your recruits to the Line, what is going to happen to the Militia? We believe if complete control of its own recruiting arrangements was restored once more to the Militia, together with the assistance which the force formerly derived from the Lords-Lieutenant and the Deputy-Lieutenants—all of them being Militia Officers, but placed by the War Office, for the last thirty years, on the dormant list—that then we should find sufficient recruits, both for the Militia and for the Line.

The Militia, however, is to be abolished, so good-bye to all the assistance and support it has given to the Regular Army in the past, and would give again in the future, in increased measure, if it were properly reorganised. Lords-Lieutenant and Deputy-Lieutenants are to be transferred from the defunct Militia to the new force. The Militia was a rural and a territorial force, but the new force will be urban and municipal. I trust that Lords-Lieutenant and Deputy-Lieutenants may prove of great assistance to the new force, but all their influence, which might have been used for the benefit of the Regular Army by recruiting through the Militia, will be lost to the Army, because the new territorial force is to be a purely civilian force, composed of a different class of men from those who enlist in the Army.

It is significant that the scheme of the Government is warmly approved by those who advocate conscription. They regard it as the certain prelude to some form of compulsory service. After all, if you abolish the Militia, and thereby render the supply of recruits to the Army inadequate, if you amalgamate the Yeomanry and Volunteers under conditions which are not acceptable to many members of those forces, and consequently entail reduction of their numbers, you will have achieved the complete breakdown of the voluntary system both for the Regular Army and for the Auxiliary Forces. This is exactly the end which advocates of conscription desire to accomplish. They certainly never thought that His Majesty's present Government would do it for them, and at the same time establish a territorial organisation which lends itself readily to the inception of an obligatory system.

I venture to suggest to His Majesty's Government that they should give the Militia control of their own recruiting, and leave them outside the speculative force, as determined by their own Memorandum dated 30th July of last year. This, my Lords, I believe to be the only hope of maintaining the Regular Army by voluntary enlistment. In conclusion, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government if they will not issue a Memorandum explanatory of their proposals in reference to the Militia Force. I can assure them that at present the statements made regarding the changes in the Militia are so vague, so contradictory, and so impossible, that the Militia Force is quite at a loss to understand their meaning.

The Duke of Bedford.

*VISCOUNT HARDINGE: My Lords, I have always in this House regarded discussions affecting the Army and Navy as too vital to the Empire to be treated on the basis of Party politics, because, no matter what our political convictions on other questions may be, we are deeply conscious of the fact that upon the statesmanlike solution of naval and military matters depends the security and consequent well-being of our country, and that a false step or injurious action might result in such disastrous consequences that it is the imperative duty of each and every one of us to endeavour to prevent the possibility of such consequences arising. It is with that purpose and with that feeling that I wish to address your Lordships on the important Motion brought forward by my noble friend Lord Wemyss, and not with any desire to disparage the efforts of the Secretary of State in his honest endeavour to solve this problem of national defence on economic lines; and I think the desire of Mr. Haldane to increase our efficiency and at the same time reduce our expenditure is probably the wish of most of your Lordships. But I would like to ask, How is it that Mr. Haldane proposes to effect that economy? How is it that he finds himself able to tell the people of this country that he will provide them with a cheaper Army on the one hand and a more efficient Army on the other. The answer to those two questions depends upon the answer to a third—namely, What are the essentials of an efficient Army? I am aware that in this House there are on both sides many noble Lords who have special and first-hand knowledge of military matters. Speaking for myself, as one not entirely ignorant of military matters, I have no hesitation in saying that the essentials of an efficient Army are that it should be able to take the field at short notice, as well disciplined, as well drilled, and as well equipped as any force that could be brought against it.

The National Army proposed by the Secretary of State for War, in the unfortunate event of its services for home defence ever being seriously required, will be called upon, not only to meet, but to beat the best troops that the Continental Armies could put in the field against it, and the National Army will require to do this after six months preparation, assuming that we shall always have that time for the purpose. But why should we assume it? With due deference to Mr. Haldane, I should like to ask him what does he expect the Continental Armies to do during that time? Does he suppose for one moment that they are going to wait until we are ready to receive them? Do we not know that the whole basis of the plan of campaign of our Continental rivals is to catch us unprepared? May we not rest assured that they would so time their operations that our National Army would have nothing like six months to prepare themselves for war? In any case, you cannot make a soldier in six months, but you can lose a country in that time.

One of the most potent lessons we learnt in the South African War was the hostile feeling shown to this country by the other countries of Europe. We are supposed to be on good terms with all the other European countries at the present time, and we hope that France will continue so for all time; but we should take a lesson from that circumstance. It seems to me we are all inclined to forget that lesson. The secret of Mr. Haldane's economy appears to be, in short, contained in two proposals—first, that an educated Army is cheap, and that we never require an Army in time of peace; secondly, that we can always educate an Army in six months, and that we will always have six months in which to educate that Army. I dispute both those propositions, and I consider that no scheme based on those propositions for home defence should have the sanction of the thinking people of this country. Of course, you can get a cheaper Army if you reduce the Line and extinguish the Militia. You naturally get a cheaper Army because you have a smaller Army, and that Army will get smaller and cheaper as years go by, for with the extinction of the Militia will cease the constant flow of recruits from the Militia to the Line. But why abolish the Militia? If it has hitherto been regarded as the ugly duckling of the Service I fail to see what good can accrue from plucking that unfortunate fowl of its few remaining feathers, when with careful attention it might be transformed into a swan.

The present scheme is utterly in conflict with the suggestions put forward by the Committee of commanding officers of the Auxiliary Forces who sat at the War Office last summer under the presidency of Lord Esher. My noble friend the Duke of Bedford and myself, as representing the Militia on that advisory Committee, looked to the Secretary of State for War to resuscitate the Militia and not to bury it. We were justified in doing so when we remember the speech which Mr. Haldane made in the House of Commons last year, when he attributed the unsatisfactory state of the Militia to the fact that no definite functions had been assigned to it, and said that he would see that in future the force was not bled white in order to supply the Line with its fighting strength in time of war. Even now I hope to receive from my noble friend the Under-Secretary of State for War some assurance that this question of the Militia is not to be ruthlessly determined before that force has had an opportunity of showing that it can take part in the scheme of home defence if properly treated. I should like to ask the noble Earl if he can give us—and I am sure the House would like to hear it—some definite information as to the ground upon which Mr. Haldane changed his view as to the claims of the Militia. Let us remember the great services that have been rendered to the country by the Militia in the past; let us remember that those services have been performed in spite of the obstacles that have always stood in the way of the proper development of this force. If the Militia had sympathetic treatment, proper recruiting facilities and equipment, and the support of the patriotic feeling of the counties from which they are recruited, and the commanding officers were given opportunities of real control, I believe they would develop a force of fighting men which might be led against the best Continental troops.

To conceive a remedy we should appreciate the disease, and the disease which has permeated the Militia in the past is lack of *esprit de corps*, which is essential to all military bodies. The men composing the Militia are as capable of it and as anxious for it as any other body of men, but in the past they have been deprived of the possibilities of ever acquiring it. In order to provide this it follows that the Militia commanding officer should be given real and full control. At the present time, for eleven months in the year he is absolutely a nonentity. It is most essential, therefore, that the commanding officer should, especially as regards the recruiting of his battalion, have full and real control.

Viscount Hardinge.

The present system of recruiting nominally for the Militia, but really for the Line, in order that the recruiting sergeants should receive double bounties, is, in my opinion, a pernicious and dishonest system, and it should be abolished. It is open to such abuses that it is surprising it has been tolerated so long. I would suggest that no man should be allowed to be transferred from the Militia to the Line without the consent of his commanding officer. That consent would never be unreasonably refused where the commanding officer thought that the recruit had legitimately gone into the Militia, and then, having acquired a liking for military service, wished to be transferred to the Line, and not for the purpose of putting double bounties into the pocket of the recuiting sergeant, and possibly some part into his own. It should not be forgotten that the bounties come out of the pockets of the British taxpayer. As a further safeguard I would make any transfer conditional on this, that the man so recruited should, before being transferred, have undergone at least one training with his Militia battalion. This would be advantageous to both services, for the Line battalion would get a better man and the Militia battalion would not have the blood drained from its veins without having derived proper benefit from it. It is on these lines that I suggest reforms for the Militia should be instituted. I do not believe in destroying existing institutions when they can be adapted to modern requirements.

Up to date no serious attempt has ever been made to put the Militia on a thoroughly sound military basis. It is time the attempt was made. Until that has been done and the Militia have been found wanting, then and not till then should we endeavour to construct some other force to take its place. It appears to me that the Secretary of State is endeavouring to get the people of this country to take a step in the dark. For whither is he leading us? Unless we know, and until we know, I say most emphatically we should decline to follow him. This country's greatness must not be hazarded on the throw of the dice, however skilful the player, and when the people of this country realise, as I believe they will, that the security of our land is being imperilled by this War Office speculation, I feel confident they will have nothing to do with it.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, before I attempt to make any general reply to the various points that have been raised by my noble friends Lord Wemyss and Lord Hardinge, perhaps I may be permitted to reply somewhat categorically to the specific questions which have been addressed to me by my noble friend the Duke of Bedford. Some of the questions he has put in the course of his speech, and others he has communicated to me privately; and I think it would be for the convenience of all who are interested in military matters, especially having regard to the fact that we are on the eve of adjourning for the Easter holidays, that I should answer these points now, so that noble Lords and the country may have this definite information before them.

My noble friend the Duke of Bedford, who is deservedly popular among Militiamen of whom he is largely the representative in your Lordships' House, asks what is the compensating advantage for depriving the Regular Army by the abolition of the Militia of all means of expansion on the outbreak of war. In reply to that question, I should like to point out that the proposed reforms regarding the force in no way deprive the Regular Army of any means of expansion it possessed in the past. The aim of those interested in the Militia in late years has not been to make it a source of expansion but a support to the Regular Army. Our proposals, on the contrary, aim at organising for every two battalions of the Line a third or nucleus battalion through which men recruited on a non-regular basis will pass to a special Reserve which will be quite apart from and in addition to the ordinary Regular Reserve force. He then inquires whether it is proposed to begin recruiting for the nucleus battalions at once, or to postpone doing so until the existing Militia has died out. My answer to that question is that recruiting will be begun for the nucleus battalions as soon as the Bill now before Parliament passes into law. Then I am asked whether it is proposed to offer men any bounty to transfer from the Militia to the nucleus battalion. In reply I have to say that it is proposed to offer bounties to Militiamen who desire to join the nucleus battalions. I am next asked what would be the pay of Militiamen if they joined the nucleus battalions. The pay of such Militiamen will be at Army rates when at drill or training, plus annual bounties. I am not able at present to state what the amount of the annual bounty will be. That is a question which will be considered in Committee in another place.

The noble Duke asks whether the Militia Act of 1882 is to be repealed. The Bill does not contemplate a repeal of the Militia Act of 1882. Until transferred to the county associations, under the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, the Militia will continue to serve under that Act. Then I am asked how the transfers to the nucleus battalions and to the Territorial Army are to be carried out. Militiamen will not be transferred to the nucleus battalions but can enlist into them if they so wish. Militia units will be incorporated with the Territorial branch of the National Army by Order in Council.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Without the assent of individual Militiamen?

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: No, certainly not. I am asked how it is proposed that drills and musketry outside the training should be carried out by the Militia. Drills and musketry at convenient periods during the year are believed to be possible and advantageous, as evidenced by the high state of efficiency attained under the old Militia system. I would also remind the noble Duke that the Yeomanry now train under this system. If it is found impossible and unworkable in the case of certain units of the Territorial force, the noble Duke will see that power is given, by Clause 13 of the Bill, to institute preliminary drills.

The next question is whether the men would be paid for afternoon drills. The Bill does not contemplate payment, other than legitimate out-of-pocket expenses, for drills prescribed, other than during actual training. The next point is whether the expenses of officers travelling to and fro to their county regiments would be paid. This is a matter for the consideration of the Army Council, in conference with the associations when formed. The general idea is to encourage gentlemen to serve with the Territorial force of their own county. What is to happen, I am next asked, to the Militia permanent staff—a very important question. A permanent staff suited to all the requirements of units of the Territorial force will be transferred with the units.

The question is asked, How would the identity of a Militia battalion be preserved when it had changed from a Militia battalion into an entirely new form of force? What were formerly Militia regiments are now merely battalions of Regular regiments, but it is assumed that when such battalions are transferred to county associations they will resume their old Militia regimental names and revive their ancient county traditions. In reply to the question, Will all Militiamen now serving be allowed to serve on to the expiration of their term, I have to say that the existing contracts of Militiamen will be strictly observed. Then I am asked whether men refusing to accept the new terms will be disbanded. It is not contemplated to disband any Militia unit. The interests of individual soldiers serving in the Militia who may not accept the new conditions of service will be carefully safeguarded.

As to whether it is legally possible for the Government to break its contract with the Militiamen now serving, that appears to be so; but the Government have no intention of breaking any contracts with Militiamen enlisted under existing regulations. As to the Irish Militia, they will for the present serve under the provisions of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill which relate to the Reserve. These are, of course, points of importance although points of detail, and I shall be very glad to give my noble friend any further specific details which he desires.

LORD AMPTHILL: Will the noble Earl allow me to ask whence he gets these questions? No such questions were asked by the noble Duke; yet the noble Earl seems to have a regular catechism in his hand to which he is giving replies.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: Perhaps I may be allowed the peculiar distinction of being more in the confidence of the noble Duke than the noble Lord. The catechism from which I have been quoting is a Paper adressed to me and signed by the noble Duke, who desired that I should take this opportunity of dealing with the questions so that the information might go out to the country.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: Might I make a simple explanation on that point? I asked the noble Earl whether the Government would issue a memorandum explanatory of their intentions, and he requested me to give him the list of questions I should like to have answered in that memorandum in the event of its being possible to issue it.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: Owing to the fact that the Secretary of State spent most of last night in the House of Commons, I have not had the opportunity of conferring with him, and I cannot, without conferring with him, undertake to issue the memorandum which the noble Duke has asked for. But in the meantime I was very glad to give him, to the best of my ability, the information asked for in his list of questions.

With regard to the Motion of Lord Wemyss, there is no occasion for him to be in a hurry. In due course the Bill will come up from another place, and your Lordships will have every opportunity for discussing it most fully. My noble friend, in referring to a debate in 1904 upon a memorandum which Mr. Arnold-Forster had issued, which several noble Lords thought fore-shadowed the abolition of the Militia, claimed that anything that made an organic change in the Militia force ought to be brought before Parliament in the early part of the session so that there might be full opportunity of discussing it. That is exactly what His Majesty's Government have done. They have introduced their proposals as early as possible. The Bill will be given the earliest possible place for Second Reading after Easter and pressed forward with all speed in the House of Commons, and in the event of its passing through the House of Commons, there will be complete and absolute opportunity of discussing it in your Lordships' House.

I find myself placed in a somewhat difficult position, because in the interests of the Militia force I should be very sorry prematurely to commit myself to any views until an opportunity had been given in the proper way to those who represent that force to make their criticisms when the Bill comes before the House of Commons in Committee. I must correct the view which Lord Wemyss apparently holds that His Majesty's Government do not appreciate the great services of the Militia; but those services have been performed abroad, and not at home. The Militia, as it has existed in recent times, has been a force which has been constantly the support of the Regular Army in great wars abroad, in the Peninsular, in the Crimea and in the South African Wars. If the Militia are to serve in nucleus battalions they are only carrying on the traditions of the Militia, as they have existed in modern times.

No one is more anxious to respect the traditions of the Militia than the Secretary for War. It is practically impossible that the present state of the Militia should continue. The last Return showed that the deficiency in it amounted to 37,500 men. The Militia representatives at the conferences of last year regarded the system of drafting from the Militia to the Regular Army as destructive of the Militia. While wishing to be fair to that force, the Government were compelled to consider the general interest of the Army, and the first interest was the maintenance of a really efficient fighting force. We have to find such a force, with an extra Reserve for wastage during the first six months of a campaign.

Some noble Lords have rather unfairly spoken as if the Government were relying on the Territorial Army as the sole support of the Regular Army. At the present moment it is not proposed to touch the Regular Reserve, but in the conference at the War Office it was found that there was a fundamental difference between the views of the Militia representatives and those of the Regular Army. The Militia representatives insisted that the Militia should have the right to go out in battalion units. Even if the Army Council were willing to make some compromise upon that point, the Militia representatives would never agree that the Regulars should have the right to bleed them white by drafting. To put it plainly, the Regular Army cannot afford to lose the right of drafting.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: I do not think the Regular Army has the right of drafting under the Militia Act of 1882. You wish to establish that right; you have not got it at present.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: About 12,000 men each year join the Regular Army from the Militia. We cannot afford not to have the advantage of the Militia as a recruiting agency in that respect in peace time or as a source of drafts during war. Therefore in proposing to constitute seventy-four nucleus battalions the Government hope that they will prove a reserve to the fighting force in addition to the Regular Reserve.

VISCOUNT HARDINGE: Will the noble Earl say why the Secretary of State changed his position? In the beginning of last year he said the Militia were not to be bled white in order to find the fighting strength for Line battalions in time of war, and then he suddenly modified his view.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: The Secretary of State for War was obliged to modify his view, because the representatives of the Militia would not modify their views as to drafting. It was impossible to have had three Lines—first, the Regular Army, with the Regular Reserve; secondly, the Militia, from which there was to be no drafting into the Regulars; and, finally, the Volunteers. That would have been an impossible arrangement financially. The second Line would have competed financially against the first Line. Perhaps I may be allowed to mention the conditions of service for Reservists. The Government propose to give to non-Regular or special Reservists a really serious form of drill, though it will be on a non-Regular basis. I am not referring to the special section of the Territorial Army, but to that part of the Militia which will go to the Regular side of our forces and become men of the nucleus battalions.

VISCOUNT HARDINGE: That will not be a Militia basis.

*The Earl of PORTSMOUTH: The non-Regular or special Reservists will be liable to service at home and abroad for six years, and they will be liable to be called out on mobilisation of the striking force. If under nineteen years of age, a man will be given forty-nine days recruit training, and fifteen days musketry training on enlistment, and he will get the remaining four months preliminary training on completing his nineteenth year. He will get the fifteen days annual training and six days of extra musketry training in alternate years. But if the recruit is nineteen years old on joining, he will get the full six months of preliminary training on enlistment. When a younger man reaches the age of eighteen, he may, if he wishes and has attained the required standard, elect to enlist in the Regular Army. If he has not done so on reaching the age of nineteen, he will be called on for four months training, at the end of which he will be available when the Reserves are called out to join the striking force. In peace, the special Reservist will not be allowed to enlist in the Regular Army after attaining nineteen years. A man enlisting into the Special Reserve at nineteen or upwards will be given six months training on enlistment. The objection to allowing men under that age to complete their six months training on enlistment is that extra cost is involved in giving such a period of training to those whose intention may be to join the Regulars. The further training is therefore deferred until they reach nineteen, after which they will not be permitted to enlist into the Regular Army.

Viscount HARDINGE: What is the difference between a nucleus battalion man and a special Reservist?

*The Earl of PORTSMOUTH: First of all, there is the non-Regular or special Reservist. He is the man who joins the Regular side of our forces, and is subject to the Army Act. Then there is the special section Reservist who belongs to the Territorial Army and whose liability has to be renewed every year.

Viscount HARDINGE: Is that on a Militia basis?

*The Earl of PORTSMOUTH: It is on the non-regular basis I have given to you. But I am told we shall not get recruits for these nucleus battalions. Why not? The facts go far to show that among the various sources from which the Militia is at present recruited there is very little objection to their making themselves liable for foreign service abroad, as individuals. Before the South African War over 29,000 Militiamen were found willing to accept the liability of being drafted for service abroad. It must be borne in mind, too, that although there are regiments which are largely associated with counties with which they have associations, there has been, and is, a very large portion of the Militia which has none of those associations. I do not think we have any evidence to show that the natural conditions of civil life, and so forth, need prevent our forming the nucleus battalions.

The consideration of the Bill must turn very much on details, and I would ask your Lordships to look on these questions not from the standpoint of any one section, whether the Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteers, but to have regard to the fact that the value of the Army proposals must be gauged by the military requirements of the Empire. While considering as far as possible the conditions of the Volunteer forces and Militia, whose services we all deeply recognise, the paramount consideration with the Government must be to see that we have a really effective military system which will prove active and powerful in time of emergency or war.

The Marquess of SALISBURY: My Lords, I must apologise for venturing to address the House, not upon the subjects on which I have hitherto had the honour of speaking, but upon a military subject. I believe your Lordships will excuse me when I say that this is the first time in my life with, perhaps, one exception twenty years ago, that I have ever delivered a speech on military matters in either House of Parliament. I desire, not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of all those who sit with me on this bench, to re-echo the words which fell from Lord Hardinge when he said that we do not approach this subject in any Party spirit. We recognise, in the first place, that the interests concerned with this subject are too momentous to be fitly treated in a Party spirit, and we assure the Government that this evening and hereafter, when more definite proposals may be submitted to us, we shall approach them from the point of view of desiring to assist the Government as far as we can to produce a good Army scheme for the country.

It is for those reasons that we find ourselves unable to support my noble friend Lord Wemyss if he asks your Lordships to divide on his Motion, but I do not anticipate that he will do so. He has undoubtedly conferred a great service by eliciting this debate. He has produced a most notable speech from my noble friend the Duke of Bedford, who represents the Militia so worthily in your Lordships' House; and he has also produced interesting, if rather complicated, information from the noble Earl the Under-Secretary. We recognise that this is not the first attempt which has been made to introduce far-reaching reforms into the military forces of this country, and therefore we do not find fault with the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State that he has also tried his hand. Sometimes I regret that successive Secretaries of State should have thought it necessary always to make far-reaching proposals. It is not their fault, because the public drives them on to do it. But sometimes, and indeed, recently, I have thought that it would not be a bad rule if no Secretary of State were allowed to make more than a twenty minutes speech on his proposals. That, I think, would probably confine them to reasonable dimensions.

The noble Earl the Under-Secretary has given us to-night some very elaborate information. He will, I am sure, forgive me if I say on my own behalf, and also, I believe on behalf of every other noble Lord in this House, that we were not able accurately to follow it. The one thing that struck me was that it was not entirely consistent with the information given by the Secretary of State in another place. I do not mean to say that they were contradictory, but the additions of the Under-Secretary were so voluminous as to change considerably the character of the information which was given by the Secretary of State. My observation has special regard to the conditions of service of the men in the nucleus battalions. The Army Bill is not before your Lordships' House, and I do not intend to discuss it in detail; but I am sure if I did it would serve a very useful purpose, because there are vaguenesses in that Bill and lacunæ in its provisions which, if it is to be taken by itself, make it difficult to arrive at any accurate conclusion as to what the proposals really amount to.

I invite the noble Earl the Under-Secretary and his colleagues to consider whether they cannot produce something more formal than the interesting observations to which we have just listened. If these additional details were reduced to writing and presented in a Parliamentary Paper it would add greatly to our convenience, and I think Parliament is entitled to this. Sooner or later it must be done. Neither in this House nor in another place will it be possible for the members to discuss the advantages of the Government's scheme unless we are in possession, in an official and formal manner, in writing, of the precise terms of service which the Government intend should apply to these forces that are to take the place of the Militia—I say take the place of the Militia because I noticed that the Under-Secretary spoke quite frankly of abolishing the Militia. Let there be no mistake about that. In another place the Secretary of State, I am given to understand, rather circulated round the point, but the Under-Secretary used the word "abolish," and abolished, of course, the Militia is to be. What is to take the place of the Militia? That is the important question for the country.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I am not aware that I did, but if I used the word "abolish" as applied to the Militia I never used it in the sense implied by the noble Marquess. I did not say the force would be abolished.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I do not think it very much matters in what sense the noble Earl used the word. The word "abolish" is one of those clear words which it is impossible to misinterpret. It is the intention of the Government to abolish the Militia. What is it that it is proposed to put in its place? Not, I think, the territorial force. I gather from the noble Earl that he does not consider the territorial force as representing the Militia. The territorial force is really the present Volunteer force, a little improved, perhaps, in some directions, but the Volunteer force to all intents and purposes as we know it to-day. Therefore, when we consider what is to take the place of the Militia, we have to look alone at these new nucleus battalions.

What are the characteristics of the new nucleus battalions? Will they give the country the same numbers as the Militia do at the present moment? The numbers they will give to the country, of course, are rather problematical. It depends, in the first place, on the conditions of service offered to the proposed recruits. Upon that the Under-Secretary was necessarily rather vague. I understand that they are not to be paid at the same rate as Army Reservists are at this moment. They are not to receive 6d. a day all the year round, but something less. The popularity of these nucleus battalions will depend on the amount of the bounty. If it is the same as the bounty which is now paid to the Militia, then, at any rate so far as pay is concerned, the Government may have some ground for expecting that the men will transfer their services. But if the bounty is less than they receive at present, I can tell the noble Earl that he will not get the Militiamen to transfer; and if the scheme depends upon nucleus battalions to be recruited from the present Militia, and the men are to receive a less bounty than they receive at present the men will not be forthcoming, and the whole scheme must fall to the ground.

But supposing the Secretary of State gets the men, will he get as many men as the Militia at present produce? Not at all. I understand that he will get about one-half. I am speaking of the Infantry of the Militia. If I remember aright they number at the present moment 80,000 men. His nucleus battalions when they are mobilised will amount to only 40,000 men, and therefore, instead of having a reinforcing body of 80,000 men for the Regular Army, he will have a reinforcing body of only 40,000. That, taken by itself, is not an improvement.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: We hope to get 70,000 men in the nucleus battalions.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My arithmetic may be faulty, but I understand that these nucleus battalions are to muster from 550 to 600 men apiece. Well, seventy-four times 550 works out at roughly 40,000.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: In time of peace they will keep on adding to the Reserve.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: If that be so, it only shows how the public have failed to understand the proposals of the Secretary of State, and it brings me back to the point that I was upon just now. It seems to me urgently necessary that these proposals should be circulated in a White Paper to both Houses of Parliament.

Then I come to the question, not of numbers, but of the training of the nucleus battalions. The noble Earl gave us a good deal of information, for which we were very much obliged to him and which we hope to be able to study at leisure, upon the subject of the conditions of training of these nucleus battalions. I do not pretend to have followed him altogether, but I understand that, in the case at any rate of some of the men of the nucleus battalions, they will have a certain preliminary drill on joining, and then in a year or two afterwards they will be called up for four months further drill, and later may be called upon to undergo still further training of some length. In point of fact, there will be in the mind of every man who proposes to join this force a complete vagueness and mistiness as to what is expected of him and the same vagueness and mistiness will extend to employers.

Before it is too late I would ask His Majesty's Government to bear in mind that simplicity is essential if you intend to get the recruits. The one thing that men of that class dislike, the one thing that inevitably repels them, is any complication, because they do not understand it and they always expect a trap. I remember one of the devices which various Secretaries of State have produced for the sake of perfecting His Majesty's Service. One device was called the special service contingent. That was a form of Militia Reserve. Men were to receive a little extra bounty and were to be available when called upon to join the Regular Army. The scheme was issued in one of those interminable War Office memoranda, and we were called upon to explain the conditions which were proposed to the men of our battalion. We did our best, but when the men realised that it was a long and complicated document they all with one accord—and I believe it was the same in the other battalions throughout the country—refused to have anything to do with it. And so, if the conditions of service are anything like what I gathered from the noble Earl just now, I would beg His Majesty's Government, in the interests of the country, to reconsider all that part of their scheme. Whatever they propose, let it be simple, and if it be simple he can rely on this—that all of us will do our best to help the Government.

I notice that since the Secretary of State spoke in another place the annual training of the nucleus battalions appears to have been a good deal elaborated. When the Secretary of State spoke in another place there was to be fifteen days' training—a totally inadequate period—but, according to the Under-Secretary, it may be extended to months. I do not find any fault with the Government for that change. I expect they would have found that fifteen days' annual training would not have produced a force adequate to the necessities of the case. But what I would venture to submit to the Government is this, that if that training were given to the Militia the effect would be the same and the abolition of the Militia would be avoided.

What is the reason for the abolition of the Militia? The noble Earl gave us a good deal of information on that point. He said that the War Office had consulted the Militia officers, and those officers had refused to agree to certain drafting proposals which the Government desired, and that in consequence of that refusal the Militia were to be abolished. I cannot say that I admire that method of producing a policy. Why cannot the Government stand on their own legs? Why cannot they think out their policy and defend it on its merits? You never hear a member of the present Government speak in Parliament without sheltering himself behind his professional advisers.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Lord TWEEDMOUTH) dissented.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I certainly have read in another place——

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Not here.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: The noble Lord is a brilliant exception. I certainly think that I have read of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen in another place defending their proposals on the ground that the Board of Admiralty or the War Office and the Army Council agreed with what they were submitting. Now we have a further example of the same practice. According to the Under-Secretary the policy of the Government with regard to the Militia apparently depends upon the fact that certain communications passed between the Government and Militia commanding officers, and, as a result of these communications, the Government found it necessary to abolish the Militia. As that argument has been used, let me examine for a moment the reason which the Government allege caused them to resolve upon this drastic policy. The noble Lord says that the Militia commanding officers would not agree to the drafting proposals of the Government. It seems that the difference of opinion lay in this, that the Militia commanding officers who were consulted—I was not one of them, but I make no complaint on that head—said that their battalions must serve as units in the field or not at all, and that the Government wanted to break up the battalions and send driblets of men out of them to join battalions of the Line. I am not surprised to learn that my brother commanding officers desired that their battalions should serve in the field as units rather than as drafts; and I fail to understand why the Government should have entered an absolute *non possumus.*

In this very measure which is submitted to Parliament, and certainly in the speeches which support it, it is suggested that the territorial force should serve in complete units in the field, and I would also say that it might be not only proper but necessary to send complete units of Militia abroad in time of war. Any one who has read the accounts of the Japanese war, and realised how whole battalions were wiped out in a single action, will recognise that it may be necessary to send out complete battalions and not only drafts. But there are units and units. Is it necessary to conclude, because Militia officers think that the Army in the field should be reinforced by units of Militia, that that unit is necessarily the unit of the battalion? Why do not the Government consider reinforcing by companies? I would like to press that upon the Government. The difference between the two proposals appears to be that the Government favour drafts consisting of men only. In my proposal the drafts would consist of men with their officers, and I say that my proposal is much the better of the two.

If your Lordships will forgive one other item of autobiography, I remember, after the fighting which ended at Magersfontein, meeting one of the most distinguished battalions which had taken part in that fighting—the Northumberland Fusiliers—and finding them in a most remarkable situation. They were 900 strong because they had received their drafts, but they had not got an officer per company. That is the system which finds favour with the Government—a system under which the reinforcing is done by men only, and not by men with officers. The result was that you had this magnificent battalion of 900 strong with not an officer per company. What happened? The battalion asked for two Militia officers to go and help them—two of those despised Militia officers who are supposed not to be fit to take the field. Two of my officers served with that battalion with absolute satisfaction for several months. I mention that story merely to impress upon your Lordships that this idea of drafts without officers is a mistake. You want officers more than men, and if you have officers at all they should be the officers to whom the men belong, because they are much more likely to work well under them than under officers they have never seen before. Therefore, if the objection of the Government to maintaining the Militia depends upon this difficulty of units I would beg them to reconsider their scheme.

There is one other test which I should like to apply to the Government's proposals. It is this: How, after the Government have finally dealt with His Majesty's Army in all its branches, will they stand with regard to the supply of officers for the Regular Army? There is nothing so important as that, and the reason is obvious. It does not take very long, comparatively speaking, to train a man, but it does take an enormous time adequately to train an officer, and, therefore, when you come to active service Regular officers are worth their weight in gold. After His Majesty's Government have worked their will on the Army, how will it be off for Regular officers? In the first place, they have destroyed ten Regular battalions with their officers. At one fell swoop the Government have abolished 670 of these priceless officers. The same principle which prevailed with them then is continued now. All the adjutants serving in the Militia and in the Volunteers are to be abolished. That is a very large number. They are all Regular officers and highly trained. No doubt for the moment they are attached to the Auxiliary Forces, but they are available in time of war to take their place in the fighting line. But on go the Government, like a Car of Juggernaut, crushing out the Regular officers as they proceed. Next, they have destroyed all the Regular officers at the depot; four officers per depot disappear under the scheme. And, finally, there are the quartermasters. They are not combatant officers, but they are experts whom it would be impossible to replace; yet all the Militia quartermasters are to disappear under the scheme.

There is a set-off, of course. There are the new Regular officers attached to the nucleus battalions, but if your Lordships will take the Army List and strike a balance between the destruction to be wrought by the Government policy and the new proposals, you will see that His Majesty's Service will be worse off by at least 1,000 officers. That appears to me to be a test of the Government scheme, and, if it be true, the fact carries condemnation with it. I am very far from saying that that part of the proposals of the Government is essential to their scheme. Very likely not. I make these observations in no hostile spirit, but I would impress upon the Government that before the Bill reaches your Lordships' House there should be a modification of their scheme in this respect.

I believe that if the Government had gone the other way to work they would have produced a better scheme. For example, in the matter of officers they might have come to Parliament and proposed that a large contingent of the officers of Militia should be furnished by Regular officers attached to them from the Line. That would have been, I believe, a very useful proposal, and it would have had the effect of increasing very substantially the total establishment of Regular officers in His Majesty's service. It would also have had the effect of improving the character of the training of the Militia. But the Government have preferred to try and start a totally new scheme—a new kind of Volunteers. I earnestly hope that His Majesty's Government will accept these observations of mine in the spirit in which they are given, and that they will not destroy the Militia, with all its great traditions and all the great interest which in every part of the country is paid to its welfare, but preserve it as an integral part of His Majesty's forces.

*LORD ABINGER: My Lords, as one who has not before exercised the privilege of addressing your Lordships I would claim your attention for a few moments. I desire to associate myself most fully with all that has fallen from my noble friends the Duke of Bedford and Viscount Hardinge. I speak, not from the point of view of a Militia commanding officer, but from the point of view of one who has served for a considerable number of years in the Militia. There is in your Lordships' House a considerable body of experts on Militia questions, many of whom are also experts as regards county organisation. The Army scheme of the Secretary of State for War is one in which county organisation plays a large part, and it seems to me a matter for regret that Mr. Haldane has not seen his way more fully to discuss the matter with those noble Lords, whose advice, of course, would have been perfectly disinterested on the subject.

The noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, in his most interesting speech yesterday afternoon, mentioned that the intentions of Governments were not interesting, but that the effect produced by their actions was. Let me say that, so far as the Militia is concerned, the force has almost lost interest in the intentions of successive Secretaries of State. We were interested witnesses of the subtle attempt to encompass our abolition towards the end of the life of the late Government. That attempt did not succeed, and I subsequently read that Mr. Haldane said it was not intended to abolish the Militia. But this evening we have had from the noble Earl the Under-Secretary words which led me and my brother Militia officers to think that the abolition of the Militia is intended. We think that this abolition is unnecessary, and we ask His Majesty's Government to hold their hand and to keep the old constitutional force outside the new scheme.

In spite of every hardship in the past the Militia force has done its best, and has always done its duty. Several instances have been given this evening of good work done by the Militia in South Africa. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary seemed to think that all the services of the Militia were abroad, and not at home. Does he forget the large number of Militia which garrisoned this country during the South African war, and thereby set free Line battalions? I wonder how the duties of the garrison towns would have been carried on if it had not been for the large number of Militia regiments who took the place of the Regulars. The woes of the Militia are matter of common knowledge, not only to every Member of your Lordships' House, but even to the Secretary of State himself. Mr. Haldane admitted that the Militia heretofore had been the hewers of wood and the drawers of water to the Regular Army, but even these menial offices are now to be taken away from them and the force is to be abolished. Let me say at once that we do not regard our abolition at all in the light of a reward for services rendered. To commingle Volunteers and Militia is, in my opinion, absolutely impossible. The two forces are totally distinct. Under their existing organisations they can, if the conditions are ameliorated, work harmoniously, but they cannot be commingled.

I thank your Lordships for allowing me this opportunity of entering my protest against a scheme which I consider as distasteful to the Auxiliary Forces as a whole as it is dangerous to the military efficiency of the country. There is only one force which has benefitted at all by the war in South Africa—the Yeomanry. If you would only treat the Militia with a tithe of the attention which the Yeomanry has received in recent years, you would not now be deploring the state of the old constitutional force. In conclusion, I again ask His Majesty's Government to hold their hand and to keep the Militia outside the scheme of the Secretary of State for War.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I am reminded of the old adage, *Ne sutor ultra crepidam.* It is, perhaps, a little bit rash of me to attempt for a short time to leave my own bench and cobble at my colleague's, but throughout this debate the idea apparently has been running through the minds of many of the speakers that we were in danger from sudden attack, and that we should have no time to get together our forces and to train and make them useful in the field; and no allusion whatever has been made to the other line of defence for which I am responsible.

Well, my Lords, without stretching the blue-water theory to too great an extent, I think that if the First Line of defence is not going to prevent a sudden and unexpected descent upon our shores the state of this country is bad indeed. In my own opinion, the time required to prepare and train our men will be amply secured by the action of our Fleet at sea. That is a view which I think I may claim is not a Party one. It is accepted on the other side of the House as well as upon this side, and I think we ought not to forget it in such a debate as this.

After all, it is impossible to enter into a debate on defence without considering what the defence services of this country are. We can never be expected to put into the field at once a force such as foreign countries can command; but we have the security of being surrounded by water, and to that water I believe we can trust for our safety, or, at any rate, for the time that is necessary for our preparation. The Noble Earl who raised this debate, and the two Noble Lords who spoke for the Militia took very different positions. The Noble Earl, Lord Wemyss, hopes by keeping the Militia in existence to have a hold on the chance of conscription.

***THE EARL OF WEMYSS**: Not conscription. I did not use that word.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The noble Earl hopes, by means of the obsolescent ballot, to keep the Militia in existence and so have a hold on the chance of conscription; but the noble Duke and the noble Viscount who followed him entirely repudiated any idea of conscription and based their arguments on voluntary enlistment. The course of the Government is a perfectly clear one and it has been very clearly stated. I think everybody will agree that at the present moment the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers are not in a condition to meet the armies of foreign countries in the field. That is the conclusion at which the Commission presided over by my noble friend Lord Elgin and the Norfolk Commission arrived.

That being the case, the Government, when they came into office, had to deal with the position as it was brought before them. My right hon. friend gave a great deal of time to this subject, and he came to see that it was impossible to continue to organise the Army on three lines; that it should be simplified and organized in two lines. That was the basis of the proposition which he put before the country. He proposed that a strong striking force should be instituted, and I would like again to refer to this fact—that in the course of this debate no attention has been paid to that fighting force. I believe that the proposals of my right hon. friend, when carried into effect, will put the country in certainly as strong a position as it ever has been to place a homogeneous strong force into the field at once to meet any emergency, and not only to do that, but to keep it in the field by its arrangement for reserves during the first six months.

The noble Marquess was very hard on my right hon. friend and on my noble friend the Under-Secretary owing to the talk about abolishing the Militia. I think the Militia, as it was constituted, has abolished itself. The Militia of the present day is not at all the Militia that was intended, and such as the noble Duke and the noble Viscount referred to to-night. The greater part of the Militia at the present moment is not territorial at all.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I beg the noble Lord's pardon.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The men are recruited largely from the great centres of population and not from the country.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I am very familiar with this subject. We are not allowed to recruit except within the territorial boundary.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: It is equally true that the people who are recruited are very largely inhabitants of large industrial places.

LORD KENYON: Surely that does not preclude them from being territorial?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: They are territorial, no doubt, but territorial in a totally different sense from that in which the Militia found itself in old days and under its old system of organisation. The plan proposed by the Secretary of State for War is to take this portion of the Militia which comes from the great centres of population and to make them part of the Regular Army; and then to set up throughout the country a secondary Territorial Army on the basis of the old Militia organization. It is a new scheme. Noble Lords opposite have been responsible for two or three new schemes in recent years, and I do not think that any of them showed much prospect of a happy upgrowth. No new scheme can be proved to be successful until it has been worked out. All I can say on that point is that the greatest possible attention has been given to the working out of this scheme, and the general opinion of civilians and soldiers is that it is a scheme that has good prospect of success.

The noble Marquess referred to the question of officers. That question is a very important and interesting one, and the Government are giving it careful consideration. I think the noble Marquess altogether exaggerated the danger of the abolition of these officers. It is the intention of the Government that the services of the reserve of officers shall be retained. At this moment at the War Office a Committee, presided over by Sir Edward Ward, is going thoroughly into the question, and I can assure the noble Marquess that it is one to which the Government are keenly alive. With regard to the inducement to men to give their services, a bounty is to be given on enlistment, and I believe it will be sufficient to induce them to enlist. The men are to be trained for six months, and they will be called out from time to time for training. The pay for the whole of the Territorial Army at large is to be the same as that of the Regular soldier, and the men are to be paid for every day that they are at work.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Not the musketry days?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I am afraid I am not sufficiently acquainted with the details to answer that Question.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Judging from the speech of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary they would not be paid on the days occupied in musketry.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I do not think I made any mention of that particular point in connection with the Territorial Force, because it has not yet been decided.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I do not think myself that this subject is one that we can with any great use go into in very considerable detail on such a Motion as that brought forward by the noble Earl. The Bill will come before this House in due course, and your Lordships will have power to examine it in every detail. It is true to say that the future must answer for itself, but we believe, so far as we have been able to give attention to these subjects, that we have a good chance of making a success of the proposals.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, I do not desire at this hour to detain your Lordships at any length. Indeed, I should not have troubled you with any remarks but for one or two observations that fell from the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty, upon which I wish very briefly to comment. I admire the optimism with which he regards this scheme, but personally, not knowing so much about it and not being favoured with the secrets of the Cabinet, I am somewhat sceptical, and the more so as the Government have taken the very dangerous course of making their reductions before ascertaining whether their scheme is likely to be a success. I gather that they have not even circularised a single Militia regiment to see whether they are likely to fall in with the new conditions. I cannot help thinking that that is a very dangerous course to pursue, and, though I naturally hope that the prophecies of noble Lords opposite may be realised, I should be very glad to see them put on the brake and retard their reductions pending evidence that their scheme has some promise of success.

I was a little disappointed with the speech of the First Lord of the Admiralty. I expected him to be much more indiscreet. Your Lordships remember the debate yesterday afternoon on a totally different subject. In that debate we had an important speech from the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council full of caution, which was followed by a speech from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack which was charmingly indiscreet, and which has been received with delight owing to its indiscretion by friends of mine in Ireland. I certainly hoped that the First Lord would follow that precedent, but he did not. He made one or two remarks, however, which require clearing up. First of all, he combatted the remark of a noble friend of mine with reference to the feared loss of officers by saying that they were not going to lose any of those officers. I quite agree that you are not going to lose the service of Captain Jones or Lieutenant Smith, but you are going to abolish a large number of posts for officers in the Army, and to avoid supernumeraries you will have to stop the intake of officers for several years. Therefore two or three years hence the forces of the Crown will be poorer by very nearly 1,000 officers. I know this is a subject in which the First Lord of the Admiralty takes a great personal interest. I have a lively recollection of having had bricks thrown at my head on this very subject by him when I was representing the War Office in your Lordships' House. I therefore hope some pause will be taken, before the Government commit themselves further, to see whether some of these posts for officers cannot be saved. The noble Lord referred with pride to the striking force, and seemed to make some complaint that it had not be alluded to before in the debate. I do not think his complaint was quite fair, because I doubt very much whether a reference to the striking force would have been in order in this debate, in view of the Motion standing on the Paper in the name of the noble Earl. I hope that the striking force will be of value, though I doubt very much whether t will be ready to strike at a few moments' notice.

The third point in the speech of the First Lord to which I wish to allude was his reference to the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers not being fit now to meet the best Continental troops. Of course they are not. But does the noble Lord seriously think that anything the Government are going to substitute will be able to meet foreign troops? Are these special Reservists to be so fit? I doubt it very much. Yet they are coming very near to the first Line of the nation. They will be certainly a great deal less efficient than many troops now in the first Line, and I question whether, great as the evil is, the Government are seriously attempting to provide a remedy.

Though this debate has been somewhat confined, owing to the difficulty of saying anything without referring to proposals before the other House of Parliament, I think we shall all agree that a very useful purpose has been served, and that we are indebted to noble Lords opposite who have tried to give us information. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary read his Answers very rapidly, and it was impossible for us to follow them all. I hope, therefore, he will give the information to us in the form of a Parliamentary Paper. If he can give us a complete skeleton of the scheme which the Government intend to place before Parliament, and its cost, it will be of great assistance to Members of both Houses. I hope we may have ample time to study the various points.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: It is no use dividing, and I therefore withdraw my Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

WELSH PONIES.

LORD KENYON: My Lords, I rise to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has taken, or contemplates taking any steps in the direction of bringing in a Bill to deal with the question of clearing the hills and commons in Wales and the border counties of undesirable stallions and other undesirable commonable animals, in pursuance of pledges given by him to the deputation of the Welsh Cob and Pony Society last July.

The deputation referred to was a very influential one, composed of landowners, farmers, county councillors, members of Parliament, and members of various associations. The object they had in view was to induce the President of the Board of Agriculture to adopt the same course in regard to the hills and commons of Wales as was pursued in the Act of 1877 relating to the New Forest. That Act gave powers to the verderers to make by-laws on this subject. Although polo has made the pony a very valuable animal, unfortunately at present stallions of all kinds are allowed to roam at large, and it is quite impossible to keep the breed of Welsh ponies in purity. If we were allowed the powers which were granted in the Act of 1877 relating to the New Forest, enabling bye-laws to be made with respect to the conditions under which stallions and other animals are able to roam at large, something might be done.

In reply to the deputation to which I have referred, the noble Earl expressed regret that there had not been a corresponding improvement in the breed of ponies in Wales and said that nothing had been done by the Government for ten years. He added—

> "So far as I am personally concerned, no effort on my part will be wanting to meet the wishes of this influential deputation."

I hope the inaction of the last ten years is not to be continued, and that the noble Earl will be able to fulfil the pledges given last July.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, I can assure the noble Lord that I recognise the importance of this subject, but I think he is a little mistaken in saying that I gave pledges to the influential deputation which waited upon me last July. What I said was that no effort would be spared on my part to carry out the wishes of the deputation, to which there was no objection in principle. The deputation assured me that this legislation would not be opposed. But after what happened in the other House of Parliament last night and this afternoon, I think the deputation were a little too sanguine upon that point. The work of the autumn session last year was so great that it was impossible for me to give this question the attention it deserved. I therefore cannot give a definite answer yet. I think the noble Lord will agree with me that the real difficulty lies with the commoners themselves. Many people do turn out animals without any legal right, and I am not certain that periodical inspection would not stir up considerable local opposition. At any rate, Parliament looks with suspicion upon any curtailment of the liberties of commoners. Still, there is no doubt, as the noble Lord has stated, and as was represented by Lord Tredegar and other members of the deputation, the breed of ponies in Wales has deteriorated. That is to be regretted. I can assure the noble Lord that the matter is not being lost sight of, and that the Board of Agriculture is in complete sympathy with the objects he has in view. I cannot give him any definite promise that anything can be done at the present moment, but we will do our best to meet his wishes.

EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, I do not think the deputation which waited upon the noble Earl last year will be very much reassured by the statement he has just made. It appears that the noble Earl has rather gone back on what he said last July, and seems to have discovered various objections to any proposal to deal with the subject. I do not know what has happened in the House of Commons in the course of the last twenty-four hours which should have affected the noble Earl's mind so far as this matter is concerned. I admit that commoners' rights ought to be safeguarded, and that there is difficulty in interfering with them, but this is a question of vital importance. The noble Earl ought at least to consider whether some method of dealing with it cannot be adopted, and might wait to see whether there are any objections on the ground of the commoners' interests. I hope the noble Earl will yet find himself able to take some definite action.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1.) BILL.

(Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 2^a (The Lord President (*E. Crewe*)): Committee *negatived:* Bill read 3^a, and *passed.*

House adjourned at ten minutes before Eight o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 22nd March, 1907.

COMMISSION.

The following Bill received the Royal Assent: Consolidated Fund (No. 1).

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Twelve o'clock, to Tuesday next, Three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 22nd March, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to,

1. Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Llandrindod Wells Gas (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Bude Gas Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to dissolve the marriage of Henry Morgan Byrne, Barrister-at-Law, with Edith Laura Byrne, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again; and for other purposes." [Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Corporation of Birmingham to acquire further lands for the purposes of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903; and for other purposes." [Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].

Fitz Gerald's Divorce Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; to be read a second time.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Burnley Corporation Bill, "To empower the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the county borough of Burnley to retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of surplus lands; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill, "for making railways and piers in the counties of Sligo and Mayo, to be called the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

FITZGERALD'S DIVORCE BILL [LORDS].

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bill, that they do hear Counsel and examine witnesses for FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear counsel and examine witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned see fit to be heard by counsel and produce witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

PLYMOUTH AND NORTH DEVON DIRECT RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MAIDSTONE GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BROCKENHURST GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Reported, without Amendment; [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

MARRIAGES PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Reported, without Amendment; [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Bold; Bwllfa; Carfin; Clay Cross; Colcorton; Craignuk; Cwmanan; Desford; Dudley; Dyke Head; Gelli Isaf; Grange Moor; Grassmoor; Hazlehead; Jubilee Crompton; Kenmuirhill; Lepton; Lower Darwen; Lower Duffryn; Netherton; Old Silkstone; Poynton; Rob Royd; Southgate; South Leicestershire; Strafford Main; Whitwell; and, Yorkshire Bowers No. 3 Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petitions for alteration of law; From North Durham; and, Trafford Park (two); to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.

Two Petitions from Merthyr Tydfil, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Argyle; Bridgend; Coupar Angus; Glasgow; Kirkintilloch; Lerwick; and, Stonehaven; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Penzance, against; to lie upon the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Petition from Oldham, against; to lie upon the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Dundee; Edinburgh; Manchester; Members of Trades Unions; and, Town and County Councils and others (two): to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition of Women of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRICES OF EXPORTED COAL.

Return presented, relative thereto, [ordered 21st February; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 90.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1907, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Navy Votes for the year 1906–7 to meet excesses on other Navy Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]: to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 91.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (ARMY VOTES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1907, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Army Votes for the year 1906–7 to defray excesses on other Army Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 92.]

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 6th March, 1907, declaring that William Edwards, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Address for "Return of the names and previous occupations or professions of (a) the Inspectors, (b) the Inspectors' Assistants, and (c) the Lady Inspectors, who are now serving; the dates of their appointment; and the number of candidates who sat at the examinations when each was successful, in so far as the appointments have been filled by competitive examination." — (*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Persian Mineral Oil Concession.

MR BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Turkish Government have granted a concession of the mineral oil lying between the Persian frontier and the Tigris to the financial group representing the proposed Baghdad Railway; and, if so, whether this concession has been made as a contribution by the Turkish Government to the promised kilometric guarantee of that railway.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) No, Sir, I have no information of the grant of any such concession.

Russian Consulates in Persia.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information to the effect that some 5,000 Russian troops have been sent to guard the Russian Consulates in Persia; and whether he will consider the advisability of despatching troops to guard British Consulates there, with a view to preventing the influence of Great Britain being predominated by that of any other Power.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I venture to refer the hon. Member to the Answer given yesterday to the Question asked by the hon. Member for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire on the same subject.† I may add that the extra guards sent to Teheran and other places amount in all not to 5,000, but to about 100.

Reservation of United States Trade.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the United States reserve trade between, say, New York and San Francisco, *via* Cape Horn, to United States vessels; whether any complaints from British shippers have been received in consequence of such reservation; and, if so, whether any representations on the subject have been made to the United States Government, and with what results.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. No complaints on the subject appear to have been received from British shippers, and no representations on the subject have been made to the United States Government.

Egyptian Nationalist Party.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps have been taken by His Majesty's Government to impress upon the Government of the Khedive the necessity of taking drastic action to deal with the agitation of the Nationalist Party in Egypt.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I must give the hon. Member the same Answer that I have given to other requests from other quarters of the House to interfere in Egypt in matters in which His Majesty's Government have full confidence in the discretion of His Majesty's representative. I do not propose to send any special instructions on this subject.

Egyptian Schools Curriculum.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the number of subjects taught in

---

† See Col. 849.

Arabic and English respectively in the Egyptian primary and secondary schools, higher or technical schools, and professional colleges respectively.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I will ask for the information requested, which can no doubt be obtained.

Training of Teachers for Egyptian Schools.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will instruct the British Agent in Egypt to advise the more rapid development of the State machinery for training of teachers for the elementary schools (kuttabs), with a view to the establishment in Egypt of a system of free and compulsory education in such schools for both sexes.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The hon. Member will see from Lord Cromer's Report for the year 1906, which will shortly be published, that the Egyptian Government are fully alive to the importance of this question, and that no instructions of the kind suggested are required to call attention to it.

Cairo Thoroughfares.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, where building operations are proceeding in Cairo, the footways and even thoroughfares up to the middle of the road are rendered impassable for months together by accumulations of building material and *débris*; whether the footways and portions of roadways so encumbered are rented by the Tanzim Department to building contractors; and whether he will advise the Egyptian Government to discontinue a practice to which many street accidents are attributable

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I have no information on the subject. The matter is one of administrative detail which must be left to the officials on the spot, who can investigate the circumstances.

Egyptian Assize Appeals.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that the procedure preliminary and incidental to trial in the recently constituted Criminal Courts of Assize in Egypt, which consist of three judges from whose decision there is no appeal save on points of Law, though thus far satisfactory on the score of expedition, does not afford sufficient safeguard against a miscarriage of justice; and, seeing that the marked tendency of European public opinion is in favour of granting an appeal upon the facts in all serious criminal cases, will he advise the Egyptian Government to restore the right of appeal, such appeal to involve in every case a rehearing.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The matter is primarily one for the decision of the Egyptian Government in the first instance, and the new system appears to be working satisfactorily. It would also probably be desirable to settle the question of criminal appeals at home, which has given rise to some controversy, before giving advice elsewhere.

Board of Trade Marine Department Staff.

MR. H. J. CRAIG (Tynemouth): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has considered the advisability of introducing such improvements into the conditions of service and remuneration at present obtaining in the Marine Department of the Board of Trade as will place the clerks on the survey staff, whose work is likely to be increased under the new Merchant Shipping Act, more nearly in as favourable a condition as that enjoyed by similar clerks employed by private corporations.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The position of the clerks to the Board of Trade surveyors was fully considered by the Treasury in 1903, and improvements effected in their scales of pay. It is probable that the work of the survey staff will be increased under the Merchant Shipping Act of last Session, and steps have already been taken to inquire further into the position of these clerks.

Trade Returns.

MR. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will have White Paper 340, Condition of Trade and People, reprinted with figures included to 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I shall be prepared to publish a Return of the general character referred to by my hon. friend, but perhaps he will be good enough to communicate with me as to its precise form.

Metric System in France.

Sir GEORGE SCOTT ROBERTSON (Bradford, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if it is within his knowledge that the French Minister of Commerce and Labour sent out, on the 11th of last April, a circular addressed to all Chambers of Commerce in France, as well as to all inspectors of weights and measures, deploring his inability to induce many trades and industries to use the French metrical system, pointing out the uselessness of further compulsion and asking for help in an effort to persuade the people to obey the so-called compulsory law; and whether, in view of this failure of compulsion in France, the Government will refuse to support a similar measure in this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George*). I have seen the circular referred to. The question of the compulsory adoption of the metric system in this country will come up for discussion in this House to-day, when the views of His Majesty's Government will be stated.

Great Eastern Railway Cheap Workmen's Tickets.

Mr BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the President of the Board of Trade when the cheap tickets promised by the directors of the Great Eastern Railway to the discharged workmen from the Waltham and Enfield factories will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I understand that this only awaits settlement of the form of issue of such tickets. On this point certain proposals made on behalf of the men concerned were received by the railway company on Monday last, and are now being considered by them.

Colonial Conference and Colonial Preference.

Mr. HILLS (Durham): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any information or evidence exists in his Department respecting the beneficial effect of Colonial preference to British manufacturers and merchants; and, if so, will he publish such evidence or information before the Colonial Conference takes place.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Memoranda on the subject of Colonial preferential tariffs will be laid before the Colonial Conference, but no question of publication can arise until the Conference has had an opportunity of considering them.

Canadian Anti-Dumping Law.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state in what instances the Canadian Anti-dumping Law has been put into operation against goods coming from the United States, and with what effect.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) No information is available from the published Canadian Returns as to the operation of the law in regard to imports from individual countries, so that I am unable to give the particulars desired by the hon. Member. The total amount of the duties collected under the law in 1905–6 was £15,295.

Battleship Magazine.

Mr. H. J. CRAIG: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the disaster which occurred on board the French battleship "Jena" whilst in dry dock, he can state what precautions are taken on board His Majesty's ships when in dry dock for for preserving the effectiveness of the magazine flooding arrangements; and, with regard to the shore connections of such flooding arrangements, whether these can be operated independently in case of need from the dockside.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The precautions taken are specified in the Dockyard and King's Regulations, and are considered satisfactory. The answer to the last part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Explosives on H. M. Battleships.

Mr. P. W. WILSON (St. Pancras, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the statement that the recent catastrophe to a French battleship was caused by spontaneous decomposition of certain explosives; and whether these or similar explosives are supplied to the British Navy.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The cause of the accident on board the "Jena" is not yet known. It would, therefore, be premature to make any statement on the subject. It may, however, be mentioned that the composition of the British and French propellant is not the same.

Fish in the Moray Firth.

MR. CHARLES WILSON (Hull, W.): To ask the Secretary for Scotland, whether he has any official reports showing that there has been any increase in the number of fish bred in the Moray Firth since it was closed to English fishermen.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) No official reports of the nature suggested by my hon. friend have reached me. It is possible to obtain information as to the quantity of fish caught, but not as to the number of fish bred in any given area of sea.

Scottish Rating System.

CAPTAIN WARING (Banffshire): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, having regard to the complexity of the present system of rating in Scotland, whereby the county and parish councils levy their assessments upon gross and net rental respectively, he will introduce legislation to unify the method of assessment and collection.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I am aware of the importance of the matter referred to by my hon. friend, but I am unable to give any undertaking as to the introduction of legislation on the subject.

Clyde Fishing Industry.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, having regard to the condition of the fishing industry in the Clyde, he will direct the Fishery Board to hold a public inquiry and report as to the best means of dealing with the same.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) From the information before me there does not appear to be any precise reason for instructing an inquiry such as the hon. Member suggests.

Sprouston Station Master.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he has received from Mr. J. Avery, station master, Sprouston, near Kelso, testimonials from ministers and other responsible people of Kelso showing him to be a man of good character; whether he is aware, that at the trial of Mr. Avery's wife for murdering her children, statements were made by the prosecuting counsel seriously reflecting upon Mr. Avery's character; and whether means can be taken to prevent such unfounded allegations being made by public prosecutors.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I have received a communication from Mr. Avery enclosing testimonials as to character, and have also seen a report of the trial referred to by my hon. friend; but the matter is not one in which I can take any action.

City Corporation Committees and Refreshments.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state what was the total sum of money voted by the Corporation of the City of London to provide refreshments to its committees for the year ending 31st December, 1905; whether the accounts of the City of London are audited by the Local Government Board; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of instituting a public inquiry into this expenditure of public money on refreshments similar to the recent inquiry at Poplar.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have made inquiry on this subject, and am informed that it has been the practice for the Corporation to make certain allowances to their committees for their expenses, that these allowances are not provided out of the rates, and are not used solely for purposes of refreshment, but for a number of other purposes as well. The amount of these allowances for the year referred to is not stated. The accounts of the Corporation are not audited by an auditor appointed by the Local Government Board.

Treatment of Married Paupers.

MR. ESSEX: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in the review of the Poor Law now being undertaken he will see that proposals are submitted permitting aged married paupers of less than sixty years to live together in workhouses; and whether such proposals will receive his full support.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) If representations are made on this subject to the Royal Commission on the Poor Law they will no doubt receive their consideration. I have not myself received any representations in relation to the matter which I could bring under their notice.

Grants to Distress Committees.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will state the total amount of money granted up to date to the various distress committees from the Government grant of £200,000.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The total amount paid up to date out of the grant to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London and the distress committees in England and Wales is £84,495. This does not include amounts paid to distress committees in Scotland and Ireland by the Scotch and Irish Local Government Boards out of the portions of the grant allocated to those Departments.

Distress Committees.

MR. THORNE: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will state how many distress committees have been formed under the Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905; how many of them have received grants out of the £200,000; and how many have made application for a grant, but have been refused.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Eighty-nine distress committees have been established in England and Wales outside London; thirty of them have received payments out of the grant, and in twenty-two cases in which applications have been made to me for such payments the circumstances have not been shown to be such as to justify me in acceding to them. One case is at present under consideration.

Grant to Unemployed.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is intended to ask the Treasury to renew the grant of £200,000 for the coming financial year, in order to enable distress committees to deal effectively with applications for employment by persons out of work.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am not, at present, in a position to make any statement as to this matter.

Crown Lands and Public Open Spaces.

MR. VIVIAN (Birkenhead): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether those responsible for the administration of Crown lands have power to give lands for the purpose of public open spaces.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) There is no power to make free gifts of Crown lands for the purposes of public open spaces, except possibly where it may be considered necessary or proper in connection with the conversion of any part of the Crown estates into building land.

Customs Assistant Clerks.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a petition from the new class of assistant clerks in the statistical office of the Customs, containing a specific charge of breach of faith, has been received at the Treasury; and, if so, what action he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The petition has been received, and is under consideration.

Telegraph Messengers.

MR. ESSEX: To ask the Postmaster-General if he will have medical reports prepared showing whether the daily hurrying of telegraph messenger lads, under the stimulus of the docket or piece work system, results in many cases of overstrain and weakness in such lads appearing.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am assured by the Chief Medical Officer to the Post Office that no case has been met with either by himself, during his long experience, or by his staff at headquarters, in which constitutional overstrain or weakness has arisen from the cause suggested among telegraph messengers, whether working at piece rates or by time.

Treatment of Lunatics.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Lord Advocate whether a dangerous patient in a district lunatic asylum may be discharged and handed over to relatives relieved but not cured; and, in that case, whether the lunacy authorities have no further charge or responsibility.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: To ask the Lord Advocate whether he will consider the advisability of taking the necessary steps to ensure that all cases of dangerous lunatics who have committed assault resulting in loss of life should be dealt with in a criminal lunatic asylum instead of relegating them to a district asylum.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: To ask the Lord Advocate whether, seeing that the presence of criminal lunatics who have committed murder is detrimental to the general freedom from severe discipline in district asylums, the beneficial effect of what is termed the open door system being acknowledged, he will take the necessary steps to keep the district asylums free from criminal lunatics who have committed murder, or attempted murder, as far as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. Thomas Shaw.*) The question raised in this and the two subsequent Questions is under inquiry, and I must ask the hon. Member to recur to the matter at a later date when I shall endeavour to answer.

Butter and Margarine Bill.

SIR H. AUBREY-FLETCHER (Sussex, Lewes): To ask the Prime Minister when the Butter and Margarine Bill will be proceeded with.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN: To ask the Prime Minister if he will give facilities for the Second Reading of the Butter and Margarine Bill before the Easter Recess.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) Perhaps I may answer the question of the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division at the same time. If the Procedure Resolutions are finished on Monday the Butter Bill will be taken on Tuesday; otherwise I fear there will be no chance of reaching it before Easter.

Riparian Rights Inquiry.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): To ask the Prime Minister if it is intended that the action or inquiry in regard to fishing rights on rivers, lakes, and lochs, and on the sea coast, which is now contemplated, is to be extended to England.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) No action or inquiry of the sort alluded to by the hon. Member has come within my knowledge. I suppose what he has in his mind is the answer given by my right hon. friend the Lord Advocate on the 12th of this month, in which he said that the whole question of fishing rights in Scotland was receiving the attention of the Government. That is so, but the matter has not yet assumed a definite shape, and there is no present intention of taking action with regard to English fishing rights.

British Workmen at Hamburg.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): To ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the reports of disturbance and racial ill-feeling arising from a large body of British workmen being exported to Hamburg to replace men involved in a dispute there; whether he can promise any legislation to prevent such exportations or use any existing means to call the attention of those British subjects who have organised those exportations to the injury they are causing to the country's reputation and international friendship.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) Yes, Sir, as I have already said, I am aware of the incidents to which the hon. Member calls my attention; but I am unable to see what legislative remedy the Government, or any other Government, could provide for such a state of things.

Hull Chief Constable and Juvenile Offenders.

Mr. CLYNES: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the methods followed by the chief constable of Hull, who does not bring ordinary juvenile offenders before the police court, but investigates into the circumstances of cases and interviews and advises the parents; and whether, in view of the good results shown from the practice in Hull, he can recommend its general adoption, and state to what extent juvenile offenders are at present dealt with without being brought in contact with the usual police court conditions.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have seen a newspaper report of what is being done at Hull, and I am making inquiry of the chief constable.

Clare Shooting Case Trial.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland how many jurors were ordered to stand aside by the Crown in the Clare shooting case lately tried at the Limerick winter assizes.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) The number of jurors ordered to stand aside by the Crown in the case referred to was forty-five. The Crown Solicitor reports to me that his reason for challenging this number was that an extensive canvass of the jurors by friends of the prisoner had taken place and that it was necessary to exclude from the jury persons who were believed to have been influenced by this improper action.

Income Tax Refunds.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can inform the House what was the total sum refunded to Income Tax payers during the last complete financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The Income Tax refunded in the financial year 1905–6 amounted to £2,706,003.

Income Tax Liabilities.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that incomes are earned by many men, often ex-surveyors of taxes, by obtaining refundment of Income Tax on behalf of persons who had paid the tax in error; and whether he will issue fresh instructions to the surveyors of taxes requesting that more exact information may be given to guide such persons, who now generally leave the office without being told whether they are liable or otherwise.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Surveyors of taxes are expected to afford to members of the public full information on all subjects connected with their Income Tax assessments. If the hon. Member will quote any specific instance in which a surveyor has fallen short of his duty in this respect, it shall be inquired into.

Sugar Tax Revenue.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the total yield in revenue of the Sugar Tax for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1906; and when the Board of Trade Returns, giving the retail price of sugar in London, Paris, and Berlin, will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The total receipts from the Sugar Duties (including Excise Duties on Saccharin and Glucose) for the calendar year 1906 were £6,545,255. I understand from my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade that, if any hon. Member wishes to move for a Return giving the information referred to in the Question, he will raise no objection to its issue.

Gold and Bank Reserves.

Mr. G. H. FABER (Boston): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the advisability of the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the questions of the gold reserve and bank reserves in this country before taking any steps in regard to these matters.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by the appointment of a Royal Commission, which would not be likely to add anything material to the information which is already accessible. As I have said before, I am not without hope that an agreement may be arrived at without any intervention on my part among the various interests concerned.

Post Office Savings Bank—Government Liabilities.

MR. G. H. FABER: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer when the statement required by statute showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the close of last year, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the National Debt Commissioners to meet those liabilities, will be laid before Parliament, and when the similar statement will be laid in regard to trustee savings banks and to friendly societies respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The annual account showing the liabilities to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank and the nature and amount of the securities held to meet those liabilities at the 31st December last will be presented as soon as the actual figures have been ascertained, but not later than the 30th June next, as required by the Statute (4 Edward 7, cap. 8, s. 9 (1)). The similar account for the trustees savings banks and friendly societies for the year to the 20th November, 1906, were laid upon the Table of the House on the 11th inst. (No. 73, not yet circulated).

Mount Everest Expedition.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for India what are the reasons which have induced the Government to refuse facilities to a small British scientific expedition to attempt the ascent of Mount Everest from the Tibetan side, in view of the fact that the party proposed merely to traverse a sparsely populated region, and would have their backs to Lhasa during the whole journey.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley*). I hope the hon. Member will allow me to refer him to my rather long Answer to the Question put to me by the noble Earl the Member for South Kensington on the 5th July last, in which I stated at some length the reasons that have led His Majesty's Government to refuse facilities to travellers desiring to enter Tibet. These reasons are still in force and are applicable to the case of the proposed scientific expedition to Mount Everest.

Benares Hindu College.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to a recent issue of the *Eastern Bengal and Assam Era*, published at Dacca, in which it is urged that public flagellation should be administered to the headmaster of the Hindu college at Benares, and to all who sympathise with him, for a speech delivered by that gentleman in favour of the Swadeshi movement; and whether, with reference to the tension of public feeling in the new province, he will consider the desirability of taking steps in communication with the Government ment of India to discourage the publication of such inflammatory utterances in the Anglo-Indian Press.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have never heard of the publication referred to; but, as I stated on the 11th March, I do not think it is necessary, as at present advised, to take any special action in the direction suggested.

Balleybofey Station, Donegal.

MR. C. MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that the Joint Committee of the Midland Railway (England) and the Great Northern (Ireland) have recently issued notices to the effect that the station at Balleybofey, on the State-built line between Stranorlar and Glenties, county Donegal, is to be wholly discontinued as a goods station after 1st April, 1907, and to be almost practically discontinued as a passenger station after the said date; whether he is aware that Ballybofey is on the plans as one of the stations, and has been used as such since the construction of this line, and that the Board of Works, in pursuance of an agreement between the promoters and the people of Balleybofey, erected a weighbridge and cattle pens there; will he say under what authority the Joint Committee have removed the weighbridge to Stranorlar; under what authority have they issued their recent notices to discontinue Balleybofey as a goods station in defiance of an agreement arrived at when the construction of the line received the approval of the Grand Jury; and will he take steps forthwith to compel the Joint Committee to keep intact Balleybofey station as a goods and passenger station, and restore through bookings to and from Balleybofey, as obtains on all other stations of the line since its construction, and thus carry out the undertaking arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have no information as to the action alleged to have been taken by the Joint Committee, nor on the question whether that Committee have any obligations to keep open Balleybofey station for goods or passengers. The railway referred to was acquired by the Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Act of 1906, and the liabilities of the county and of the Treasury were thereby extinguished. The Government is, therefore, not concerned and has no power to act as the hon. Member suggests. I may observe, however, that no undertaking was given at the time the line was constructed to give through bookings to Ballybofey.

Streamstown Estate Galway.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the amount of annuity payable by the tenants on the estate purchased by the Estates Commissioners at Streamstown, county Galway.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The amount of the annuity payable by the purchasing tenants in respect of sales so far effected is £723 6s. 2d. A small portion of the estate has not yet been sold.

Major Conlon's Tynagh Estate.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the estate purchased by the Commissioners from Major Conlon, at Grangemore, Tynagh, county Galway, has yet been divided amongst tenants; and, if so, what is the amount of annuity payable.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The reply is in the negative.

English and Irish Privy Councils.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the fact that members of the English Judiciary who have been sworn of the English Privy Council rarely, if ever, attend the meetings of that body, and never allow attendance at those meetings to interfere with or delay the the discharge of their judicial duties, whereas the meetings of the Irish Privy Council are constantly attended by members of the Irish Judiciary, any steps will be taken to assimilate the practice in England and Ireland in this respect, and to secure, as far as possible, the severance of judicial from executive functions.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The ordinary meetings of the Privy Council in Ireland are held at such times as to enable Judges to attend, if they desire to do so, without interference with the discharge of their judicial duties. When the Committee of the Council is engaged in hearing appeals under statute, and important questions of law have to be decided, the attendance of Judges is necessary, but on such occasions arrangements are made by which the attendance of a sufficient number of Judges is secured without inconvenience or delay to suitors in the law courts. The executive functions of the Council, as distinct from the judicial, are purely formal.

Irish Privy Council Meetings.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a summons is sent before each meeting of the Irish Privy Council requesting the attendance of every member of that body, or is it the practice to send invitations to attend the meeting of that body to such members of the Privy Council only as the Government desire to be present; and whether, having regard to the fact that the members of the Irish Judiciary who are members of the Irish Privy Council, to which some of them have been appointed after their promotion to the Bench, not infrequently adjourn the the hearing of cases in their courts, to the expense and inconvenience of suitors and the waste of public time, in order to attend meetings of the Privy Council, steps will be taken to secure that meetings of the Privy Council to which members of the Irish Judiciary are summoned, do not interfere with the discharge by those Judges of their judicial duties.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) All the members of the Privy Council are not summoned to each meeting. The summonses to ordinary meetings of Council are issued only to members who reside in or near Dublin. These meetings are usually held before the sitting or after the rising of the courts, and Judges who are members of the Council can attend without any interference with their judicial duties.

Irish Judges and Viceregal Letters.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, while members of the English Judiciary do not suspend the business of the courts even for the purpose of attending the Royal levees, Judges in Ireland suspend the sittings of the Irish courts for the whole day on which a Viceregal levee takes place, to the delay, inconvenience, and expense of suitors and witnesses; and, whether some arrangement could be made by which the Judges could manifest their respect for the representative of the Sovereign in Ireland in a manner which would not entail serious loss on suitors and interfere with the administration of the law confided to them as servants of the Crown.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It is the practice of the Judges not to sit at the Four Courts on the day of the Lord-Lieutenant's first levee in each year. As long notice of the date is always given, and as the practice of adjourning the Courts on that day is long established and well known, there is neither loss to suitors nor interference with the administration of the law by this custom, with which, even if it were possible or desirable to limit the discretion of the Judges, there is no reason to interfere.

Typhus Fever at Oughterard.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that typhus fever has broken out in Oughterard, county Galway; that three deaths have already occurred; that the local hospital is full of patients suffering from this disease; and whether he will make immediate inquiries as to the cause of this epidemic, which is attributed to the extreme destitution of the people consequent on the failure of the potato crop last year.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) An outbreak of typhus fever occurred in this district early in February, since when four families, comprising twenty-five persons, have been affected. Three deaths have occurred, sixteen persons are still in the fever hospital, and six have been discharged cured. The Local Government Board have already fully investigated the matter, and are satisfied that the outbreak was not due to the destitution of the people but to insanitary conditions. None of the people affected were destitute, and none had applied for relief at the time of the outbreak. The local medical officer of health, in consultation with the medical inspector of the Local Government Board, is making every possible effort to prevent the spread of the disease. Three additional fever nurses have been appointed by the guardians. There is every reason to hope that no further cases of fever will occur.

Tralee Assize.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the report of the Irish Constabulary to the Judge of Assize at Tralee, which stated that since the last assizes there had been ten cases of arson, and that thirteen persons were under constant and eleven under occasional police protection; and, if this is true, what steps he intends to take to remedy this state of affairs.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The hon. Member appears to have read a report of the Lord Chief Justice's address to the grand jury at Tralee assizes, in which the details mentioned in the Question were stated. The hon. Gentleman, however, does not refer to the comment which the learned Judge made on the state of county Kerry, namely, that for some years past very appreciable progress in the direction of peace and good order has taken place. I am informed that, as regards the cases of constant police protection, the majority are of many years' standing and no new case has arisen since 1905. As regards the cases of burning, the Judge himself said that it would be better to suspend judgment as to whether they were cases of incendiary fire until they had been investigated by the Judge of Assize. No special steps appear to be necessary in county Kerry.

Irish University Bill.

Dr. HAZEL (West Bromwich): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state approximately when the Irish University Bill will be introduced; and whether he proposes to introduce this Bill before or after the Bill dealing with Irish Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am not at present in a position to reply to my hon. friend's inquiry.

Irish Judicial Patronage.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the total value of the patronage connected with appointments to posts in the High Court of Justice in Ireland above the rank of junior clerk in the hands of the Lord Chancellor and of the Lord Chief Justice, respectively; how many of the posts above the rank of first class clerk are now held by officers who received their first appointment to the courts as the result of a Civil Service examination and by officers first appointed to the courts on the nomination of one or other of the Judges; how many of the persons appointed to these superior posts during the past ten years were in the Civil Service at the date of their appointment; and if he is prepared to introduce a Bill providing that, where possible, appointments to the superior posts shall be made from amongst the officers serving on the permanent staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have referred this Question to the Lord Chancellor, who informs me that it would not be possible to give, within the limits of an Answer, the particulars asked for, and that no public advantage would be gained by furnishing a Return containing such particulars. Those promotions, which are not governed by statute, are made as the result of merit. As a rule the heads of offices in the High Court are required by statute or long usage to have a professional qualification.

Monasterevan Inquest.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the proceedings of the coroner's jury who inquired into the cause of death of James Lynam at Monasterevan; whether he is aware that many accidents have occurred in the vicinity owing to the unprotected state of the canal; and whether he will compel the canal company to erect a wall or barrier along this dangerous part, so that human life may be protected.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) My attention has been called to this matter. I am informed that previous drownings have occurred at the same place. I have directed inquiries to be made as to the possibility of fencing the canal at this point, and as to the powers of the Government in the matter.

Army Accounts Department Promotion.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether two civilian members of the Army Accounts Department have been promoted on the condition that they would consent to serve in South Africa.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) It is a condition of promotion of civilian members of the Army Accounts Department that they may become liable to service Abroad, if not already liable.

Emolument of the Civil Staff of the Army Accounts Department.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, with the exception of the second-class accountants, the emoluments of the civil members of the Army Accounts Department compare most favourably with those of military officers in the Department, notwithstanding that the latter are considerably senior both in age and service; and whether he will take this matter into his consideration.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I am not aware that the emoluments of military officers compare unfavourably with those of civilians in any grade of the Army Accounts Department.

Military Members of the Army Accounts Department.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether it is in contemplation to revise the organisation of the Army Accounts Department so that the military members may be granted the same privileges and similar conditions as to travelling and service abroad as civilian members; or, failing this, whether military officers will be granted adequate pensions to support them in retirement, so that they may not be compelled to serve their full periods under conditions non-existent at the time of their entering the Pay Department and in a new branch to which they were posted without being consulted thereupon.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The civilian members of the Army Accounts Department are performing the their fair share of foreign service. The military members of that department are serving under military rules, which are in some respects more beneficial, and in other respects less beneficial, than civil conditions. I am not prepared to put to them on a different footing from other officers in regard either to travelling expenses or retiring allowances.

Signalling Regulations.

MR. VIVIAN: To ask the Secretary of State for War how soon the Signalling Regulations, which are out of print and have been so for the last eight or nine months, will be obtainable.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Copies of the new Training Manual Signalling, 1907, will be available at the commencement of April.

Artillery Militia Training.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can make any statement with regard to the training of artillery militia; what provisions are to be made for artillery practice this year; whether they are to receive musketry training in lieu of gunnery; or whether it is the intention that no practical training at all is to be given to these troops in the use of either gun or rifle.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The training of artillery militia will be of an exceptional nature during the present year, as most of the force is no longer required to fulfil its present role of garrison artillery, and the nature of the duties which it will be asked to undertake in future cannot yet be precisely determined. There will be no gun practice except for those units in Ireland which will still be required to act as Coast Defence Artillery. Where movable, or what is now termed land front, armament is available, units will receive training with such guns, but where such armament is not available, General Officers Commanding will determine what the course of training is to be, and this course may include musketry.

Woolwich Arsenal.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War how many men will remain at Woolwich when running discharge notices expire; and what were the number employed on 31st March, 1906, and 31st March, 1905, respectively.

MR. BARRIE: To ask the Secretary of State for War how many men have been discharged, or received notices of impending discharge, from the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich during the current month; and whether he is aware that, as a result of recent discharges, very considerable distress exists in Woolwich.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I will answer this and the subsequent Question together. As regards the Army Departments in the Royal Arsenal and Dockyard at Woolwich the figures are as follows:—

	Total, including Army Ordnance Department.	Army Ordnance Department.	
		Arsenal.	Dockyard.
Number of men remaining when running discharge notices expire - - - - -	16,214	1,073	395
Number employed on 31/3/1906 - - -	17,946	1,101	415
Number employed on 31/3/1905 - - -	18,585	1,131	426
Number of men discharged or who have received notices of discharge this month - - -	169	10	

These figures do not include employees of the principal experimental officer, the Ordnance Research Board, or the War Department chemist. The numbers in these branches do not fluctuate appreciably. As regards any distress which may exist at Woolwich, much as I regret it, I should not be justified, as I have already informed the House, in retaining men when there is no work on which to employ them. I may mention, however, that, with the view of ascertaining whether it is possible to take any steps to reduce the number of discharges, a conference, consisting of five Members of this House and three representatives of the War Department, has just been appointed to inquire whether any articles not now made in the Ordnance Factories can be appropriately made there, and with the machinery there.

Yeomanry—Suggested Mess Allowance.

Mr. FIENNES (Oxfordshire, Banbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the fact that many Yeomanry regiments have bought, at considerable personal expense, their mess tents, canteen tents, and complete camp equipment for the messing of the men; whether, in view of this fact, a ration allowance can be given to the regiment, instead of messing by Army contract; and, if so, what allowance can be made per man.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) At present Yeomanry pay is issued at consolidated rates and already includes provision for rations and messing, and it is open for commanding officers to make what arrangements they please for the messing of their regiments, although they have the right to draw rations on payment at stations where Army contracts exist. As regards the first part of the Question, I have no knowledge of the amount of private property in possession of Yeomanry units.

Clare Militia.

Mr. HALPIN (Clare, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Clare Militia will be in training for one month only this year; whether they are to have gunnery practice; and whether, in view of economy to the War Department and the men in the Militia, he will have the training carried out in Clare this year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The regiment will train for twenty-one days this year, and there will be no gunnery practice. The arrangements for the training of units of auxiliary forces are in the hands of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and he shall be asked to consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

Volunteer Corps Debts.

Mr. GEORGE FABER: To ask the Secretary of State for War under what statutory or other authority the War Office has power to take a transfer from the Public Works Loan Commissioners of a debt owing to that body in respect of drill halls and ranges for Volunteer corps, using a surplus from the Army Votes for that purpose, and whether the transfer of the debt has in fact been made, or when it will be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The transfer of the mortgages has been effected by an agreement which is a good transfer in equity operating by way of trust. Statutory authority will be taken by means of a clause in the annual Public Works Loans Bill to vest the mortgages thus transferred in equity in the Secretary of State for War for the time being.

Licensing Revenue Statistics.

Mr. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the number of wholesale and retail licences, respectively, for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the total revenue from such licences for the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, each presidency of the Leeward Islands, Trinidad, and Tobago, respectively; and whether he could arrange that this information should be given yearly in future in the Annual Colonial Reports for the West Indies.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I regret that I am unable to supply the hon. Member with the information which he desires, but if the hon. Member presses for information which will entail, I fear, considerable labour on the officials in the Colonies, the Governors of the Colonies referred to will be asked if they can conveniently arrange that the information should be furnished in the annual Blue-book Reports as requested.

Colonies and Colonial Preference.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any definite proposals have been made by any of the Colonies for a preference on articles which are at present subject to Customs duties; and, if so, will he state what Colonies, and what are the particulars of the scheme submitted.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) A proposal was made in 1905 by the Government of the Cape of Good Hope to the effect that a preferential tariff on Colonial wines should be granted in the United Kingdom, and, as the hon. Member will see from Cd. 3337, a Resolution will be proposed at the forthcoming Colonial Conference by New Zealand, to the effect that this country should concede preferential rates of duty on Colonial products now taxable.

Customs Outdoor Inspectors.

Mr. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Treasury has sanctioned any departure from the existing system of appointing Customs outdoor inspectors exclusively from the outdoor department.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Board of Customs have already intimated to the Service by general order that the Treasury had sanctioned a scheme under which officers selected for employment as inspecting surveyors would, if qualified, be eligible for superior positions both inside and outside the office of the Chief Surveyor General. Such positions include that of inspector in the outdoor department.

Second Division Clerks.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a second division clerk who attains a salary of, say, £245 a year, and who, after serving at that salary for twelve months, receives the necessary certificate for promotion to the higher grade of second division, is granted a salary of £255 immediately on his admission to that grade; whether a second division clerk, having failed to receive the afore-mentioned certificate on attaining a salary of £250, and having given satisfactory and approved service at that salary for more than twelve months, on being subsequently certified for promotion to the higher grade, after competition with others, is not entitled to an immediate salary of £260 on promotion; and, if not, what is the explanation of the difference in treatment.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The practice in the second case referred to follows the usual rule under which an officer appointed or promoted to a class must serve for one year in that class before he can receive his first increment in the class; the clerk is, therefore, not entitled to a salary of £260 until he has given a year's approved service in the higher grade. The clerk referred to in the first part of the Question is exceptionally allowed to enter the higher grade at a salary above the minimum because it would be inequitable that, where a clerk is promoted to the higher grade, without stoppage, on the same day that his increment becomes due, he should receive only a part of an increment, bringing him up to £250, instead of the full increment of £10.

Royal Physical Laboratory.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the terms of reference to the Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct and management of the Royal Physical Laboratory will suffice to prevent such Committee from reporting in favour of the Laboratory being allowed to continue to compete with private testing establishments, in spite of the fact that such competition was expressly forbidden by the Report of the Treasury Committee which sat as recently as 1898.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The hon. Member will find the terms of reference set out in the reply which I gave on Wednesday to the hon. Baronet the Member for Tamworth. With the Report of the Committee of 1898 he is no doubt familiar. In these circumstances I am not prepared to anticipate the finding of the Committee which is now sitting nor the decision which the Treasury will take thereupon.

MR. NIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Treasury, in asking the Royal Society to nominate two members of the Committee to inquire into the conduct and management of the National Physical Laboratory, were aware that such society was responsible for the policy of the laboratory, which had given occasion for the appointment of the Treasury Committee; and whether he will state the grounds upon which the Treasury believed that a committee, the constitution of which left two members to be the judges of their own cause, was likely to secure public confidence.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. I have already informed the hon. Member that I see no grounds for distrust of the Committee, and I am not prepared to discuss further its constitution, which, in my opinion, is such as to command the confidence of all impartially minded persons.

Tuberculous Beasts.

SIR ARTHUR BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the statement made by Professor McCall that the milk from a cow suffering from tubercular mammitis should on no account be used for human food, or that such an animal should be destroyed or fattened for the butcher; and whether he will take such action as will prevent such animals being fattened for the butcher to the danger of the public.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have not seen the statement referred to. The report made in 1898 by the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, presided over by Sir Herbert Maxwell, contained a statement of the principles upon which they considered that meat inspectors should act in dealing with the carcases of animals affected with tuberculosis, and the Local Government Board have, more than once, brought the views of the Commissioners under the notice of local authorities. The Royal Commission, however, did not go so far as to recommend action of the kind referred to in the last part of the Question. A further Royal Commission is now considering the transmission of tuberculosis from animals to man, and I should expect guidance from them as to the course which should be taken with regard to the meat of animals affected by the disease. Meanwhile, I could not undertake to promote the legislation which would be necesary to give effect to the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Kensington Guardians and Medical Relief.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is necessary, under any Order of his Department, that all married applicants for medical relief should produce a marriage certificate; and, if not, whether he is aware that the Kensington Board of Guardians make this a condition for granting such relief; and what action he proposes to take in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) There is no order of the Local Government Board requiring married applicants for medical relief to produce a marriage certificate. I am making inquiry as to the practice of the Kensington Board of Guardians in this matter.

Cost of London Poor Law Administration.

MR. HADDOCK (Lancashire, North Lonsdale): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the total expenditure, including expenditure out of loans and all other arms of expenditure, on the administration of the Poor Law in London for the ten years ending March, 1906, and the total expenditure of all kinds on the administration of the Poor Law in London for the twelve months ending March, 1906, to include expenditure out of loans, the expenses of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the expenses of the Local Government Board, differentiating between such expenditure.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The total expenditure for the relief of the poor and purposes connected therewith of the Poor Law authorities in London for the ten years ended March, 1906, not defrayed out of loans, was £35,083,889. The expenditure out of loans was £4,844,960. The amounts for the year ended March, 1906, were £3,869,308 and £244,463 respectively. The expenditure of the Metropolitan Asylums Board for the purposes referred to was in the year last mentioned £396,991, excluding the expenditure out of loans which amounted to £51,750. The totals for the ten years given above include expenditure by the Metropolitan Asylums Board in connection with their smallpox and fever hospitals, ambulance service, etc., prior to 1900–1, when the amount of the latter expenditure was for the first time separately ascertained. It is not possible to state the expenses of the Local Government Board in respect of the administration of the Poor Law in London, as it is only one of many subjects dealt with by the Board, and is not wholly conducted by a separate staff.

Learners in the Telegraph Service.

MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that complaints have been made before a Committee of this House with reference to the fact that qualified learners in the telegraph service were awaiting appointments for long periods, and that the officials stated the delay was due to the decrease of telegraph work; whether ex-soldiers and ex-sailors, not having passed a competitive examination and who are still attending the School of Telegraphy, Central Telegraph Offices, at certain hours in order to complete their knowledge of telegraphy, have been given preferential appointments; and, if so, whether he will explain the reasons for this action.

MR. STEADMAN: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that, on Wednesday, 1st August, he received a deputation, consisting in part of Members of this House, for the purpose of dealing with the employment of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors in the Civil Service, who were informed that any extension of the opportunities at present being given in the postal service was doubtful, he will say whether, since that period, vacancies in the postal telegraph service have been filled by ex-soldiers, and a corresponding number of appointments previously filled by youths entering through open competition has lapsed; and whether he still intends to develop the system of compelling the sons of the working classes to become soldiers before being able to secure permanent established appointments in the State employ.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will answer these Questions together. There has been no increase during the last ten years in the proportion of vacancies in Post Office employment filled by ex-soldiers under agreement with the War Office; and I have certainly not in any way extended the system. Certain vacancies in the telegraph service have recently been filled by ex-soldiers, but a corresponding number of vacancies for postmen are set free to be filled by ex-telegraph messengers. The employment of the soldier telegraphists in question will not prejudice the interests of any learners, whether in the Central Telegraph Office or elsewhere.

Australian Mails.

MR. O. C. PHILIPPS (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): To ask the Postmaster General what is the approximate net weight of letters and postcards and other postal packages, respectively, conveyed by the contract steamers of the respective companies under contract with His Majesty's Government and the Commonwealth of Australia to that Colony for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The net weight of correspondence in the letter mails from the United Kingdom conveyed to Australia during the year ended the 31st December, 1906, by the contract packets of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (under contract with the Imperial Government) and the Orient Steam Navigation Company (under contract with the Commonwealth Government), including correspondence for New Zealand, was as follows:—

	Letters and Postcards.	Other Articles.
	lbs.	lbs.
Peninsular and Oriental Service (Imperial Contract) - - - - - -	84,000	1,046,000
Orient Service (Australian Contract) -	88,000	1,099,000
Total - - - -	172,000	2,145,000

MR. O. C. PHILIPPS: To ask the Postmaster-General what is the approximate number of parcels weighing not over 3 lbs., weighing 3 lbs. but not over 7 lbs., weighing 7 lbs. but not over 11 lbs., respectively, conveyed by the contract steamers of the respective companies under contract with His Majesty's Government and the Commonwealth of Australia to that Colony for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The total number of parcels included in the parcel mails from the United Kingdom conveyed to Australia by the contract packets of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (under contract with the Imperial Government) and the Orient Steam Navigation Company (under contract with the Commonwealth Government) during the year ended the 31st December, 1906, was 75,000, of which, approximately, one-half was conveyed by each line. I regret that I am unable to state the number of parcels in the various categories mentioned.

Lead Poisoning in the Potteries.

MR. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any special inquiry is being made into the cause of the recent increase of fatal cases from lead poisoning in the Potteries.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The figures of fatal and non-fatal cases of lead poisoning for the first two months of this year show ten cases, as against nineteen for the corresponding months of the year before. But of these ten cases four have been fatal, as against none for the first two months of last year. With small numbers irregularities are sure to arise in the records of accidents of all kinds. I do not think any explanation can be given of the number of deaths for this year, which I am informed appear to be due to chronic kidney disease originated by lead poisoning of old standing.

Police and All Night Sittings.

Mr. WALROND (Devonshire, Tiverton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state what extra allowance will be made to the police force in attendance on the House in respect of the prolonged sitting of Wednesday, 20th March.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I can only refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave on Monday last to the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton, which was as follows:—"The police on duty at the Houses of Parliament receive, while so employed, a special allowance of 1s. a day in addition to the ordinary pay of their rank. In addition to this they receive compensation for all extra duty in the shape of 'time off' and also of special leave. This is, I think, sufficient to meet the requirements of the case."

Long Sentence Convicts.

Sir WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will supply a Return giving the list of prisoners now in His Majesty's gaols who have already spent there without interruption a period of twenty years or over, and the designation of the offences for which they were originally imprisoned.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) There are two such prisoners, both convicted of murder.

Church Estates Commissioners—Agency Charges.

Mr. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): To ask the right hon. Member for Sheffield (Hallam Division), as Church Estates Commissioner, what sums have been paid directly or indirectly by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to Mesrss. Clutton and Messrs. Smiths, Gore, and Company, respectively, as agency charges in each of the twenty financial years last past; and what further sums have been paid or allowed to each of the said firms in each of those years for legal assistance.

(*Answered by Mr. Stuart Wortley.*) Messrs. Clutton and Messrs. Smiths, Gore, and Company's agency charges are regulated by the same scale. The total amounts paid by the Commissioners in respect of agency (including payments to mineral agents other than the two above-mentioned firms) in the year ended 31st October, 1906, were:—

	£	s.	d.
In respect of Estates vested in the Commissioners for their Common Fund - - -	42,981	18	6
In respect of Episcopal Estates managed by the Commissioners -	2,526	15	8
In respect of Estates vested in the Commissioners on Special Trusts -	1,722	9	3
	£47,231	3	5

The figures for preceding years are set out in the Abstracts of Accounts appended to the Commissioners' Annual Reports, which have been presented to both Houses of Parliament. The Commissioners are unable, without the expenditure of a large amount of labour, to make a Return of the sums allowed during the last twenty years to their agents in respect of local legal assistance, but these sums have been trifling in amount. That allowed in 1906 on this account was £7 7s.

Bombay Evicted Ryots.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the fact that the number of ryots evicted in the Bombay Presidency for non-payment of land revenue increased from 2,173 in 1899–1900 to 15,575 in 1903–4, can he state to what cause this increase in the number of evictions is attributed; and, if not, will he order an inquiry to be made on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) In reviewing the figures for 1903–4 the Bombay Government pointed out that the entry of 8,869 cases of forfeiture against the Nasik district was apparently incorrect, and ordered an inquiry. The collector's report showed that figures had been accidently transposed and that 266 should be read for 8,869. With this correction the number of cases of forfeiture in the Presidency in 1903–4 was 6,972, not 15,575. I do not think that further inquiry is necessary.

Government Departments' Powers and Duties.

Mr. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table a Return showing the powers and duties of the Agricultural Department, the Board of Works, and the Local Government Board, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The powers and duties of the Departments named are, as the right hon. Gentleman is aware, set forth in various statutes the interpretation of which rests in the last resort with Courts of Law. I do not think it desirable that I should undertake to lay a Return purporting to give an authoritative statement of these powers and duties.

Irish National School Teachers.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what were the numbers of Irish national school teachers in second grade, first grade, and first-of-the-first grade respectively on 31st March, 1906; and what is the number of teachers who in each of these grades respectively were awarded increments since 1st April, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that on 31st March, 1906, there were 2,471 teachers in the second grade, 726 in the first grade, second class, and 486 in the first grade, first-class. Since 1st April last, increments have been awarded to 1,031, 156, and 174 of these teachers respectively. Many of the teachers were not eligible to receive increments because three years had not elapsed since their previous increments, or the average attendance at their schools was not sufficient or they were already at the maximum incomes of their grades.

Michael Barry's Gortkelly (Tipperary) Estate.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the estate of Michael J. Barry, at Gortkelly, Upper Church, county Tipperary, agreed to purchase their holdings, and that the agreements for purchase were signed and lodged with the Land Commission prior to 1st November, 1905; and, if so, should the interest to the landlord be payable half-yearly pursuant to the statute; and did the Land Commission collect the same half-yearly, with the result that now, for the first time, on the eve of a third half-year becoming due, they demand a full year's interest from the tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Land Commission agreed to purchase this estate on 21st November, 1905, from which date they are bound under statute to pay the vendor 3½ per cent. interest on the purchase money until the same is distributed. The tenants on their part agreed to pay to the Land Commission interest at 3½ per cent. on the purchase money of their respective holdings, and such interest takes the place of rent. Owing to an oversight the interest due on 1st May, 1906, was not then demanded from the tenants, but it has been demanded with the half-year due on 1st November, and the tenants have been informed that the Land Commission are bound to collect it.

Sligo County Council Printing Contract.

Viscount CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the decision of Major Eccles, Local Government auditor of the Sligo County Council printing contract; whether he is aware that there were ten tenders for the contract, that the lowest was £216 13s. 4d. per annum for a term of three years, and the Council accepted the tender of Mrs. McHugh at £399 per annum, that the Sligo Ratepayers' Association challenged the legality of the contract with Mrs. McHugh, and that the Sligo County Council tendered the excuse that they declined to accept tenders from firms outside the county of Sligo; if he is aware that the secretary to the county council admitted that a considerable portion of the accepted contract was done in Dublin; and, seeing that Major Eccles has held that the contract was given for an improper purpose and not in the interests of the ratepayers, and declared it illegal under the eighteenth section of the Act of 1902, whether he proposes to surcharge personally those members of the Sligo County Council for the difference between the lowest tender and the much higher tender which was accepted.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that the facts are substantially as stated in the Question. The auditor has not made any surcharge during the present audit, as the amount paid under the printing contract during the period under audit was in respect of liability incurred before the auditor declared the contract to be null and void.

War Office Harness Contract.

Dr. COOPER: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any contract or sub-contract for military harness or accoutrements has been placed with Messrs. Jenkinson and Company, of London Wall and White Street, E.C.; and whether, if a contract or sub-contract has been placed with this firm, the clause prescribed by the Secretary of State under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, requiring that every person paid by the piece must have supplied to him with his work such particulars to enable him to compute the amount of his wages, has been insisted on.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the rest of the Question, in accordance with the conditions of contract, a record of the work done and the wages earned by each worker has to be kept for my information, and I have ascertained that such a record has been duly kept. Each sewer is also supplied with a paper on which is entered from day to day the work he has completed. There is doubt whether the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, applies to this trade, but the point is for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Rifle Ranges.

Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether provision for rifle ranges for the Territorial Army will be provided in the Army Bill; and whether funds will be available in the Budget of the new financial year for this purpose.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The provision of rifle ranges is one of the duties which it is proposed under the Bill to transfer to the association. It is generally intended that the cost shall be met out of the moneys provided for the expenses of associations by Parliament. I am not in a position at present to give any further details as to the methods of provision.

Army Reservists.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether Part III. of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill is intended to apply to Reservists enlisted for the purpose of furnishing a striking force in the event of warlike operations taking place without a general mobilisation, or to men of the special contingent to be enlisted as a supplement to the Reserve of the Regular Army in case of war and of a general mobilisation.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Part III. of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill contains provisions covering both cases mentioned in the Question.

3rd Battalion West Riding Regiment.

Mr. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the 3rd Battalion West Riding Regiment are to train at Scarborough; whether they will have to send half their force to Strensall for musketry; whether this will divide the battalion for a whole fortnight; whether the 3rd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment have been ordered to train on the Town Moor, at Doncaster, and will have to send their men individually to Strensall for musketry; and, if so, whether he can make other arrangements in the interests of efficiency and economy.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The 3rd Battalion West Riding Regiment will train at Strensall, where the musketry will also be performed. The 3rd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment will train at Doncaster, and the musketry will be carried out at Strensall. The arrangements for training are in the hands of the General Officers Commanding-in-Chief concerned, and I have full confidence that their arrangements are made in the interests of efficiency and economy.

Ex-Soldiers' Superannuation Allowance.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether anything has been done to carry out the recommendation of the Committee on Civil Employment of ex-Soldiers and Sailors, embodied in their Report dated the 2nd July, 1906, to the effect that service in the Army or Navy of a satisfactory character which has not earned pension should reckon towards superannuation allowance in the case of men appointed to established positions in the Civil Service.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This matter, which involves questions of considerable difficulty, is still under consideration.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Twelve of the clock, and that on conclusion of Government Business Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somerset, Wellington) said that before the debate on this Motion was taken he thought the House ought to have some information as to the business to be taken next week. They proposed to divide against the Motion as a protest against the great inconvenience that a Saturday sitting caused to Members and officials of the House. One thing which made him smile was that only on Thursday last week the Prime Minister told them he did not wish to use the power of the Government in any tyrannical way. He did not know what the Prime Minister's idea of tyranny was, but, to his simple mind, keeping the House sitting continuously for twenty-seven hours, and following that by a Saturday sitting, after the number of occasions on which the so-called eleven o'clock rule had been already suspended this session, seemed to be a fair sample of tyranny. One reason they were told it was necessary to get the Consolidated Fund Bill through by Thursday night was that it was impossible to get the Royal Assent as quickly as usual. That Bill went through all stages in another place yesterday evening, and he wanted to know by what mysterious process the Royal Assent had been obtained? Was it done by wireless telegraphy or telepathy? The House was really entitled to an answer on that point, because only yesterday the Prime Minister said he had to take the Bill as rapidly as possible for that particular reason. He awaited with great interest the right hon. Gentleman's explanation of the way he was able to carry out these things so expeditiously.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has genially raised several points on which I will endeavour to give him satisfaction as far as I can. As to the mysterious way in which the Royal Assent has been procured at very short notice, I am a tyro, and cannot very well explain, but I would refer the right hon. Gentleman to others who can explain—the right hon. Gentleman's own colleagues, who for many years pursued the same mysterious method that has been adopted to-day. The right hon. Gentleman has referred to my deprecation of any attempt to use the power of the Government such as it is tyrannically. I must remind the right hon. Gentleman that, at the very moment I said that, I was conveying an important concession by the Government to the wishes of the Opposition. That is a proof that the Government are not tyrannical, because we were at once yielding to the plaintive request of the oppressed political Party sitting opposite. I hope that the events of the last few days will leave no bitterness behind. With regard to the business which the Government contemplate—I must make this statement only provisionally, there can be no pledge, only a forecast—we intend to devote Monday and Tuesday to procedure, and if we conclude that on Tuesday the Motion for the adjournment over Easter will be moved on Wednesday.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) hoped nothing that would fall from his lips would disturb the happy harmony which had been secured by the general tone of the last two speeches. But he must call the attention of the House to the position in which they stood. They were to have a Saturday in lieu of the Thursday sitting which lapsed owing to the dispute of Wednesday night. The whole difficulty in which the House found itself arose out of the decision of the Government being made known to the Opposition only at the moment when they actually entered upon the consideration of the Consolidated Fund Bill on Wednesday last.

THE PATRONAGE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): No, no.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Patronage Secretary to the Treasury contradicts me. Did he give any public notice of his intention to proceed with the Bill that night?

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Wellington Division sent me a message in the afternoon that if we proposed to proceed that night with both the Army Annual Bill and the Consolidated Fund Bill there would be a very great row. My answer was that we did propose to do so, and that we should have to suffer the row.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought it was scarcely worth the while of the Patronage Secretary to contradict him in order to get in that explanation. It was clear there was no public notice. The Prime Minister had described himself as a mere tyro in methods of Parliamentary procedure——

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Not in matters of Parliamentary procedure generally, but in this particular method of getting the Royal assent.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN quite understood that the innocency of the right hon. Gentleman referred only to that one small part of their procedure, and that the right hon. Gentleman was no tyro with regard to procedure generally. Everyone now saw that the taking of the Consolidated Fund Bill on Wednesday night was wholly unnecessary. There was no earthly reason why all that pressure should have been put upon the House of Commons to hurry forward that Bill. It would have been perfectly sufficient if it had been finished by Tuesday next. He desired to join in the protest against the House of Commons being punished by a Saturday sitting because the Government had mismanaged its business through ignorance of the ordinary methods of conducting it. Saturday sittings should not be resorted to except under circumstances of most extreme urgency. Such additions to their labours made it more than ever difficult for a man with other occupations to give a portion of his time to the service of the country. The strain upon hon. Members was not only due to the sittings of the House: it had been increased by the demands of the great democratic electorate, which were becoming more and more heavy year by year, and which, he was afraid, were inevitable, and he therefore regarded with the utmost jealousy any unnecessary increase in the burdens placed upon the Members of the House. In the present instance the business could perfectly well be taken on Monday; there was no urgency in the matter, and he therefore supported the protest of his right hon. friend.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the declaration of the Prime Minister that there could be no pledges as to business, but merely provisional announcements—a declaration which confirmed a statement of the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury on Wednesday night—amounted to an absolute revolution in the procedure of the House. No Member would now know upon what day a measure in which his constituents were specially interested would come on, and he would be unable to make any preparation for debating it, while he would be equally unable to go to his constituency lest the Bill should be taken in his absence.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER (Sir HENRY FOWLER, Wolverhampton, E.) stated that long agendas of business a week in advance were a novel proceeding, and one which Mr. Gladstone had declined to adopt.

Sir F. BANBURY said they were only asking to know what business was to be taken on Monday and Tuesday next—surely not a long way ahead.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said he was credibly informed that the supporters of the Government had better and earlier information with regard to the Consolidated Fund Bill's being taken last Wednesday than other Members of the House. That was a very unfair position in which to place a minority, however small, which was endeavouring to contribute to the business of the country.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY said that no hint or suggestion was made from the Whips' office at any time, and if the hon. Member wished to make such a charge he thought he should substantiate it.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 219 ; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 89.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin (Walsall
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, B. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Lamb, Edmund G (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J M (Falkirk Burghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Massie, J.
Meehan, Patrick A
Menzies, Walter
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph

Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Pullar, Sir Robert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonsh.
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Wilson, Henry J (York, W. R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir A. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J A. (Worc.)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birming'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denision (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn. Col. W.
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End) in moving the Second Reading of the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, said the question was one of very great moment, but he would endeavour to deal with its history as briefly as possible. He would only go back as far as 1895 when, as the House would remember, a Select Committee sat to consider the question. He would read to the House its recommendations—

(*a*) That the metrical system of weights and measures be at once legalised for all purposes.

(*b*) That after a lapse of two years the metrical system be rendered compulsory by Act of Parliament.

(*c*) That the metrical system of weights and measures be taught in all public elementary schools as a necessary and integral part of arithmetic, and that decimals be introduced at an earlier period of the school curriculum than is the case at present.

Two of the recommendations, (*a*) and (*c*), had already been adopted, and (*b*) alone remained to be carried. Some people said—and with a certain amount of truth—that there was prejudice against the metric system on account of its foreign origin. But the system was not of foreign origin; its originator was one of the greatest Englishmen this country ever produced—James Watt. France showed herself sensible and acute enough to adopt it, and other countries had followed her example. It had been adopted in every European country with the exception of Russia and Great Britain. [AN HON. MEMBER: And the United States.] The United States was not a European power. This measure was supported in almost all parts of the Empire, and the Colonies, he believed, were firmly in favour of it. If the Second Reading were passed, it would give the Colonial Premiers at the forthcoming Conference an opportunity of expressing their opinion. In 1902 the Colonial Premiers passed a Resolution strongly in favour of the metric system. New Zealand, Australia, Cape Colony, Transvaal, Orange River Colony, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Ceylon had all passed similar recommendations. He did not think there was a Member of the House who would say that our present system was a perfect one; very few would even claim that it was a good system, but, of course, there were some who were always opposed to anything new. Such opposition, however, was as old as the hills. When the scheme was proposed for Germany, they were told that it would ruin the trade of that country and kill its engineering industry. According to Sir William Ramsay, it did not take more than a fortnight to adopt the whole system after it became compulsory. Why should not the same thing occur in England? Speaking in the House of Lords in 1904 Earl Spencer said—

> "I am afraid we often say, and say with some truth, that the Germans are a much better educated people than ourselves; but I will not for a moment believe that the people of this country are so uneducated that they will be behind the Germans in understanding a change which will conduce so much to the benefit of the country."

In 1904 a measure similar to that now before the House was passed through all its stages in the House of Lords. The alterations in this Bill were very slight indeed. It was proposed that the metric system should become compulsory after a period of three years; the 1904 Bill proposed that the period should be two years. There was no reason why the period should not be extended still further and, after all, that was a matter for the Committee to consider. He thought everybody would admit that we suffered great disadvantages under the present system. That was shown by the number of petitions which had been received in support of the proposed change. The London County Council passed a resolution in favour of the measure which came before the House of Lords. The signatures to the petitions which had been presented in support of this Bill included many town and borough councils, and amongst others—Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Ltd.; Vickers, Son & Maxim, Ltd.; Siemens Bros. &. Co., Ltd.; The Tyne Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.; Stothert & Pitt, Ltd.; Thomas Bolton & Sons, Ltd.; Sir David Salomons, Bart.; H. Rossell & Co., Ltd.; and F. Wintour, Works Manager of the G.N.R., Doncaster. One of the petitions was signed by the following engineers and representatives of kindred trades:—Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., boiler makers; Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd., Coventry; Cleveland Bridge Co. Ltd., Darlington; Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester; Oliver Bury, General Manager, G.N. Railway; District Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Smethwick; Ruston Proctor & Co., Ltd., Lincoln; Professor Kapp, Professor of Engineering at Birmingham University; Professor F. W. Burstell, Professor of Engineering at Birmingham University; Brampton & Sons, Ltd., Oliver Street Works, Birmingham; Thomas Bolton & Sons, Ltd.; Alex Siemens; Hoffman Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; Hans Renold, Ltd., Progress Works, Manchester; Frank Cooper, M.I.N.A.; Benjamin Hooker, M.I.M.E., Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow; District Engineer of L. &. S. W. Rly., Clapham Junction; Director and Engineers of North British Locomotive Co., Ltd.; John H. Pease, ironmaster, Darlington; Sir John Jackson, contractor; Howard Fox, Chairman of Falmouth Dock Co.; S. M. Dixon and Frank H. Hummell, Civil Engineers, Birmingham University; and Walter Kent, High Holborn. The petition had also been signed on behalf of many of the railway companies. Lord Kelvin, a leader in the movement, was one of the first to sign a petition in favour of the Bill. A great many of the trade unions of the country were also in favour of it. The petitions which had been presented to the House contained considerably over 32,000 names, and with more time that number could easily have been doubled or trebled. He had no doubt that the promoters of the Bill would be told that it was not desired in any part of the country, and particularly in the textile districts. He could mention a great many textile firms who were strongly in favour of the measure. Among the textile manufacturers who had signed a petition in favour of the Bill were:—Tom Garnett, J.P., Clitheroe; M. Godlee, Wilmslow; Frank Holroyd, Elland; J. Ainscow, Bolton; J. T. Whipp, Clitheroe; John Holden, Clitheroe; A. W. Whitley, Halifax; J. K. Caird, Dundee; Rawden, Briggs & Co., Dewsbury; Day & Fox, Dewsbury; Marshall, Kaye & Marshall, Ltd., Dewsbury; H. A. Aykroyd & Co., Ltd., Liversedge; T. F. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Heckmondwike; Geo. Roberts & Co., Ltd., Selkirk; Thos. Purdy & Sons, Batley; Jos. Newsome & Sons, Batley; Geo. Ellis, Dewsbury; C. J. Johnston, Elgin; and W. Welsh, Elgin. It seemed to him peculiar that amongst those who had notices on the Paper of their intention to move the rejection of the Bill was an hon. Gentleman who was chairman of a limited company who had petitioned in favour of it.

There were three reasons why it was desirable that the metric system should be made compulsory in this country, namely, first, the loss of time and money in business and trade in our own country; second, the most serious waste of time in the education of all classes; and, third, the loss to our commerce with other countries owing to our system of weights and measures being incomprehensible to them and absurdly complicated. The measures mostly used by us at the present moment were the inch, foot, yard, furlong, and mile. Most people had some idea of what those measures meant. Then there were also nails, palms, hands, links, cubits, paces, fathoms, rods, poles, or perches, and chains, but few had much knowledge of them.

In connection with some industries the inch was divided by decimals, and he thought that was a very good idea. But when they divided the inch into 64th and 128ths they could see the absurdity of the present system. For instance, if they were asked to add $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches, $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches, and $\frac{39}{64}$ inch, there was probably not a Member of the House who could make the addition mentally, and although they might be able to do it on paper there would be serious risk of mistake, to say nothing of the waste of time. But in countries where the metric system had been adopted such an addition could be easily done without using pencil or paper. He would not weary the House by mentioning all the names of measures of capacity, dry and liquid. The whole of the names did not apply to dry and liquid measures, and they had no precise connection with their cubic capacities expressed in inches. For instance, the pint contained 34·66 cubic inches. There was also an apothecaries' fluid measure in which drachms and minims were imported. There was no co-ordination under our present system. It was when they came to weights, avoirdupois, troy, and apothecaries, that the fun began. A seam of glass was 120 lb. A seam of straw in Devon equalled 200 lb. A seam of hay in the same county was 373 lb. He asked the House to note the figure 373. It was a prime number, it was not divisible by any other existing whole number. They could neither have an exact half, nor a fourth, nor a sixteenth, nor a thirty-second, nor any ordinary fraction whatsoever. And that was defended by the people who feared that when the decimals came they would all get into muddles in sub-divisions, when everything was ten times something else or a tenth part of it. The brain reeled before this huge edifice of unmitigated absurdities. Why should there be $24\frac{3}{4}$ cubic feet to the solid perch of mason's work, and only $12\frac{5}{8}$ cubic feet if it was brickwork? No wonder the British workman went on strike. He sympathised. He must mention a few more curious features of our ordinary methods of weighing and measuring. An ounce of coffee weighed $437\frac{1}{2}$ grains. An ounce of silver was 480 grains, or $42\frac{1}{2}$ grains heavier. Silly enough! When was an ounce not an ounce? When it was another ounce. A pound of coffee weighed 7,000 grains; a pound of silver 5,760 grains. Thus a pound of coffee was 1,240 grains heavier than the silver. But let them note the inversion. First the silver *ounce* was heavier, then the coffee *pound* was heavier. Did the House know that 144 lb. avoirdupois equalled 175 lb. troy, one ounce avoirdupois equalled 437½ grains, and one ounce troy equalled 480 grains. The avoirdupois drachm was $27\frac{11}{32}$ grains while the apothecaries drachm was 60 grains. Was this not absurd? He doubted whether there was one Member of the House who could say how many legal stone weights there were in the country at present. He knew of five, but he was told there were seven. There was the ordinary stone of 14 lb., the Speaker's weight or his own, but a stone of meat amounted to only 8 lb. a stone of cheese 16 lb., a stone of hemp 32 lb., a stone of glass 5lb. Not long ago he heard of a case in which a man bought a stone of meat and took it to his wife. She looked at it and said it did not weigh 14 lb. He replied, "Ah, they have had me again, a stone of meat of course, is only 8 lb." Some years ago Lord Kelvin was making experiments in regard to explosives and for that purpose had to use certain ingredients. He was told that he had to use certain quantities, but on account of some confusion arising out of the difference between grains avoirdupois weight and grains apothecaries' weight, he almost made a mistake which would have resulted in his being blown to smithereens. In his own words, to quote from his speech in another place—

> "While experimenting I was very nearly blown up, in which event I should not have been here to-day supporting the adoption of the metric system. Two and a quarter drachms was the proper weight, but I had weighed out two and a quarter drachms of sixty grains. I thought it appeared rather large. I looked up the matter and discovered the mistake just in time to prevent the rifle exploding and killing me. I have a strong recollection of my feelings as to the danger arising owing to the resemblance in name of two weights drawn from different tables."

In Worcestershire a pot was equal to four pecks, while in other counties a pot varied from 64 to 94 lb. A bushel of potatoes in Cornwall was 224lb., in Nottingham 84 lb. In several places apples were quoted at 16lb. to the peck, potatoes 20 lb., and pears 18lb. He hoped he had shown the absurdity of our present anomalous system, and the desirability of making some change. As to the waste of time in the education of children, he believed it was recognised that at least two years of school life were wasted through children having to learn our antiquated and ridiculous system of weights and measures. That time could be used to more advantage in teaching subjects which would better equip children for fighting the ordinary battle of life. An eminent French schoolmaster had stated that their system of weights and measures could be taught in 20 hours and it took 400 hours to get an idea of the English antiquated system. The whole metric system could be stated in seventy-two words, whereas our system of weights and measures required some thousands of words, and even then there were very few who understood it. There were very few educated people in the country who pretended to know our system of weights and measures properly, and they recognised that it was so ridiculous that it was not worth while wasting time learning it. Must it not befog the mind of a child to be told that there were sixteen ounces in a pound, and then to be told next day that there were only twelve ounces in the pound? The child thought that he was either being humbugged or "got at." As to the third reason why the metric system should be adopted, he said that if they looked at the Consular Reports they found that practically in every instance there was the same remark, namely, that the causes of the fall in trade was largely due to the competition of other countries, and the refusal of the British manufacturer to adopt the metric system of weights and measures. Perhaps he would incur some displeasure from his friends in the opposite camp if he said that were he to meet a man whose particular bent was the absorption and assimilation of unending tables of British weights and measures he would have a great contempt for his intelligence. Why? Because the human mind should be a gem casket and not a lumber room. A friend who knew the system well had written him a letter containing the following—

> "As an instance of the practical uselessness of your measure as regards the yarn trade, I can give you my experience in France at the time when the Cobden treaty was made. In 1862 when it came into force, I went at once to France to see what could be done for the old firm. The French manufacturers admitted almost unanimously that we could supply cotton yarns somewhat cheaper than their own spinners,

> but they preferred to pay a little more money than to have all the bother of calculating English weights and measures into French metres and counts. The trade refused to buy our products and has, I am pretty certain, adhered to it up to this day. The Board of Trade Return will confirm my statement."

He would state what the metric system was. The basis was the metre. The metre was divided into 100 centimetres, or 1,000 millimetres, and these sub-divisions were used by different trades according to the degree of accuracy required. A thousand metres made one kilometre—a very convenient measure for distances—being about five furlongs. The measure of surface or area commenced with a square metre—10,000 square metres made a hectare, which was equal to about 2½ acres. There was an intermediate measure called an are, containing 100 square metres and 100 ares made a hectare. The are was a quarter of an acre. Cubic measure, or measure of capacity, whether for liquids or grain, had its basis in the litre. A litre was the cube of the tenth part of a metre, or the cube of ten centimetres. One thousand litres made a cubic metre, while the 1,000 part of a litre was a cubic centimetre, so they had a simple co-ordination between measures of length and measures of capacity. The system of weight was equally in agreement. The weight of a litre of water was a kilogramme, that was to say 1,000 grammes. A cubic centimetre of water weighed one gramme. For larger weights, they had 1,000 kilogrammes, equal to a metric ton, and that was the weight of a cubic metre of water. That was splendidly simple for the engineer, builder or manufacturer. They had only to know the specific gravity of any material, and they knew that a cubic metre of such material weighed that specific gravity in tons, or the cubic centimetre of any substance weighed its own specific gravity in grammes.

Clause 1 of the Bill proposed that on and after 1st April, 1910, or such later date as might be fixed by a postponing order, the kilogramme and the metre should be the imperial standards of weight and measure. Clause 2 authorised the making of Parliamentary copies. Clause 3 sought to enact that all future dealings involving weight or measure should be in terms of the metric system, and imposed a penalty not exceeding 40s. for each offence against the provisions of the clause, but excepted (1) contracts made before the commencement of the Act; (2) contracts with persons outside the United Kingdom; (3) any trade or business for the time being exempted by order in Council. Clause 4 enacted that all references in existing Acts of Parliament, orders, by-laws, etc., to existing weights and measures should be deemed to apply to equivalent metric weights and measures, but gave the Board of Trade power to make provisional orders removing any inconvenience caused by the change. Clause 5 applied the provisions of the existing Weights and Measures Acts to the metric weights and measures. Clause 6 related to the provision of local standards. Clause 7 gave the Board of Trade general power to take steps for facilitating the transition. Clause 8 repealed some enactments inconsistent with the Bill. Clause 9 related to Board of Trade standards. Clause 10 gave the short title "Weights and Measures (Metric System) Act, 1907." He would be told that this was a drastic measure. He admitted that there were clauses which might be amended in Committee. He quite agreed that the three years proposed as the period of time which should elapse before the metric system became compulsory might be too short. He also agreed that there might be some trades which must be exempted. There was no reason why they should not be. He would be glad to see a clause inserted providing that any trade which desired to be exempted from the Act should have an opportunity of presenting its case to the Board of Trade. If it could show proper and sufficient cause, it should be exempted. The penalty of 40s. could also be altered. There was no system of weights and measures better than the metric system. It was universal. It was used, practically speaking, in all the civilised countries of the world. There would undoubtedly be many objections to the Bill. He would like to say at once that he appreciated and sympathised with the opposition of Manchester. As a native of Lancashire he acknowledged that any opposition that came from Manchester deserved attention. All the arguments which he had heard as to the effect of the metric system on the textile industry made for one thing, and one thing alone, and that was exemption. He had not heard anyone who opposed the Bill say one word against the system. That, he believed, was because they could not say anything against it. He believed that at the present moment the opposition to this measure was very much exaggerated, and but for the textile industries of Lancashire there would be practically no opposition. Lancashire industries did not want this change because at the moment they were so prosperous, but their argument was not sufficiently strong to prevent any Member from voting for the Second Reading. So far as he could make out the only industry opposed to the measure was the textile industry. The bulk of the engineering trade had not only signed the petition in favour of the Bill which he had presented to the House, but they were strongly in favour of it. [Cries of "No, no!"] Yes, such firms as Vickers, Son & Maxim, Armstrong & Whitworth, Mather & Platt, Kynochs & Co., and others, who represented the largest and best firms as far as the engineering industry was concerned, were in favour of the Bill. [Cries of "No!"] He heard from hon. Gentlemen opposite cries of "No" but those "Noes" were not borne out by the petitions which he had received or by the letters which had been sent to him congratulating him upon the introduction of the Bill. The benefits of the metric system had been fully realised in Germany and France, and he felt sure the hon. Member opposite who cried out "No" would be one of the first to regret, after it had been in operation a few years, that the reform was not carried out years ago. Even the trades desiring exemption had nothing to say against the metric system, and the bulk of the engineering industry was enthusiastically favourable to it. If it were urged that the metric system was not understood, he replied that the public did not understand the present system.

The public bought articles at so much per pound and very often they bought, say, 2 lb. 13 oz. Were they able to reckon the correct price themselves? Those who went a good deal amongst the working classes knew how difficult it was for them to check the weights and measures and the prices of the goods they bought. There could be no doubt that our system lent itself much more easily to fraud. He was told that the Government authorities would not be able to reckon properly because custom was paid per pound, but that was a ridiculous argument. After all, an article like tea, which had to pay duty at so much per pound came in tons or cwts. and it would be just as easy to cast up the duty under the metric system as under the present antiquated arrangement. The present system existed because they had not had the courage in the past to adopt a more suitable one. Upon that point he would quote Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, the Chairman of Kynock's Ltd.—

> "A business man who objects to taking the trouble involved in improving his system had better retire at once. There is no room to-day for business men who are not capable of taking trouble, and as a matter of fact the trouble involved in the preliminary change will not represent one hundredth part of the trouble we continuously suffer from under the old confused system."

He did not wish to delay the House, but before he resumed his seat he would like to give the views of those who were more competent than himself to express an opinion on this question. Speaking in another place in 1904 Lord Roseberry said—

> "I attach so much importance to this change that I believe if you carry it out it will be of infinitely more advantage to the commerce of the country than all the fiscal remedies proposed by official or non-official Members of the Government."

Of course, Lord Rosebery was referring to the late Government. In the same debate Lord Lansdowne used the following words—

> "We are all agreed that the existing system—if indeed it is worthy of the name of a system—is one to which overwhelming objections can be urged. It is distracting to learners and obstructive to trade, home and foreign, and it is probably advantageous to no one, unless it be to the dishonest trader, who is able to profit by the confusion which prevails."

One of the best phrases used in regard to the subject had come from that past master of phrases, the Leader of the Opposition, who in addressing a deputation in 1895 said that—

> "The present system of weights and measures was arbitrary, perverse and utterly irrational."

He did not think the right hon. Gentleman ever made a truer statement in his life than that.

An objection was that the change would throw upon traders in general, and especially on the small trader, an expense which it would be unfair to saddle them with. The reply to this was that the small village shopkeeper who used a 7-lb. set of iron weights would obtain new ones for about 2s. 6d., while those using a 7-lb. set of brass weights would be put to the expense of about 16s. over and above the value which would be given for the obsolete weights. When it came to large houses of business, or to railway companies and factories, the saving effected by the simplification of accounts on the metric system would quickly compensate for any expense on weights and weighing machines. Of course there was no need to make the measure compulsory except say after the expiration of five years. The advantages of the new system would be considerably more than any hon. Member of the House could possibly anticipate. He apologised to hon. Members for keeping them so long. He had not intended to occupy so much time, but he had been rather carried away with his subject and he hoped the importance of the question would be a sufficient excuse. He would now give way to those who understood the question better than he, and who were more accustomed to the procedure of the House. He wished to say, however, that there were no hon. Members in the House who were more earnestly in favour of the measure and who believed more truly than he did that if the House of Commons adopted it the Bill would prove to be for the benefit of great masses of the people. There was not a man in the House or out of it who, when the Bill had been the law of the land for a short time, would not be pleased with its results, or would regret that it had become an Act of Parliament. There were no doubt those who would vote against the Bill, but he ventured to say that in their heart of hearts they would regret that it was not the law of the land when they were children, as it would have saved them many weary hours of useless work. He thanked the House for the kind attention they had given to him, and he had much pleasure in moving the Second Reading.

Mr. Straus.

*SIR H. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.), in seconding the Motion, said that his hon. friend who had moved the Second Reading had covered so much of the ground that there was little left for him to say. He would therefore confine his remarks rather to answering certain objections which were likely to be urged. His hon. friend had spoken at some length upon, and had most truly described, the present anarchy which existed in regard to weights and measures. If his hon. friend had chosen to take up more time he could have gone into much greater detail and shown that the confusion which at present existed was even much greater than he had pointed out. He held in his hand a long list of all the extraordinary weights and measures which were at present in use in this country. There were 200 different weights and measures in this country for dealing with corn alone. The first requisite of any system of weights and measures was that it should be simple, and the second that it should be universally applicable; but our weights and measures were the most complicated the world had ever seen; and they varied according to what was to be measured or weighed. He did not suppose there was a single inhabitant in the country who knew all the weights and measures in common use, and he wondered how many hon. Members even remembered some of the simpler tables which they were taught with so much difficulty and so much suffering at school. He would read to the House an extract from a leading Colonial paper, the *Melbourne Age*, and it was important to notice that Colonial opinion in regard to this question was more enlightened than our own. The extract was as follows—

> "In this twentieth century the table for lengths sounds almost crazy in its eccentricities—12 inches 1 foot, 3 feet 1 yard, 5½ yards 1 rod, 25 links 1 rod, 22 yards or 4 rods 1 chain, 10 chains 1 furlong, 8 furlongs 1 mile. In the surface table the absurdity culminates in the relations 144 square inches 1 square foot, 9 square feet, 1 square yard, 30¼ square yards 1 perch, 40 perches 1 rood, 4 roods 1 acre, and 640 acres 1 square mile. The bare recital of these tables proves them to be freakish barbarisms and anachronisms that are quite intolerable."

That was the way the existing system of weights and measures in this country struck our fellow-subjects in Melbourne.

To waste so much time in mastering our present tables of weights and measures was to squander our most precious national asset, the efficiency of the rising generation. In years to come our descendants would look back on our weights and measures exactly as we looked back on the savage's methods of counting by notches on his spear or bartering by shells. Common-sense and patriotism alike demanded reform. His hon. friend, although he had so ably explained the metric system, had done so with needless complication. It was entirely contained in a little bit of metal which he held in his hand, a steel rule which Lord Kelvin had described as the key to the metric system. Any intelligent adult, or even child, who would devote ten minutes to its study could master it. He had tried the experiment on a boy of nine, and had found ten minutes quite enough for him to grasp its essential principles and answer intelligently and correctly questions about it made intentionally difficult. The rule was one millimetre thick, one centimetre wide, ten centimetres long; ten of them made a metre; 1,000 metres a kilometre. From the cubes of it were derived the measures of capacity and weight. The infinite advantage of the metric system was that all its weights and measures were closely co-related. The importance of this, particularly to the engineering trades and in constructive work, could not possibly be exaggerated. It would be possible, too, with the metric system to do much of the calculation mechanically, and there could be no doubt that if the system became universal in this country a great deal of the calculation, not only in workshops and offices, but also in retail trades, would be done rapidly and with absolute accuracy by mechanical counting machines. That would mean a great saving of time, and time meant money, but also more than money; time meant rest, leisure, education, literature, art, music. These could be enjoyed by those who were fortunate enough to save time, and the metric system would be one of the greatest time savers. They were asking the House by this Bill, not merely to facilitate trade and simplify commercial transactions, but to set free children's minds, and so in a marked degree to extend the area of our civilisation. He desired to state the objections frankly. There was first the general objection based on the inconvenience and expense involved by the change. The reply was simple. Reform always meant trouble and expense to some one, and every new tax cost some one something that he would rather keep in his pocket. The only question they had to consider was whether the goal was worth the effort, whether the hill was worth the climb. These general objections rested upon apathy, and upon our feeling of insularity. We had certain measures which had been used for a great many years, and were connected with the greatest trade in the world; it was easier to do nothing than to alter them. The second class of objection came from those who believed we could have a decimal system without having a metric system. The chief exponent was a distinguished friend of his, Mr. Thomas Parker, an eminent electrician, who had invented a system called the decimal inch. The more that system was examined, however, the more illogical and contradictory it appeared, and certainly if we were to put ourselves to the trouble and expense of changing our system we ought to select that which was in use by nearly all civilised countries. When it was argued that the expense of the change would be very great, he would ask how it was that it was so easily adopted in Germany. It was said that its introduction would make many weights and measures and machines useless. No doubt; but railways made stage coaches useless, motors were superseding horse traction, and internal combustion engines steam engines. But Lord Kelvin was of opinion that the metric system did not involve the displacement of any useful machinery, and Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, who had recently introduced the system at Kynoch's, had said that the cost was insignificant, and would probably be covered by the saving in a year's clerical work. Many machines could be adapted without difficulty. His own lathe, for instance, could be altered in a few minutes to cut threads of a metrical pitch. A well-known and respected Member of the House, who was head of a famous engineering business, had said to him yesterday—

> "Your Bill would render useless all my patterns, templets, metals, gauges, going back half a century."

That was an extraordinary remark

If those patterns, etc., went back half a century, it was probably high time many of them were scrapped. But those which were useful would in no way be interfered with by this Bill. Amongst all the supporters of the measure there were none more enthusiastic than the inspectors of weights and measures. They had to consider the matter every day in their lives, and they were all the strongest supporters of the metric system. Mr. Street, the chief inspector of weights and measures in London, said—

"I have always been of opinion that the little difficulties and expense which would be incurred by the transition would be more than compensated by the easier and greater facilities gained in our commercial transactions with our foreign neighbours."

It would be interesting to consider how far the objections of the engineering trade were to be taken seriously. If they were really to be taken seriously, he would like to read a few extracts from the opinions expressed by great representatives of the trade. Mr. Hans Renold, manufacturing engineer, of the Progress Works, Manchester, a firm employing over 500 men, said—

"If we were not slavishly conservative, the metric system would long ago have become our national system."

Mr. G. B. Hunter, Chairman of Messrs. Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Ltd., said—

"Any expense or inconvenience caused by the adoption of the metric system in connection with shipbuilding business would be trifling and would be far outweighed by the advantage of the improved system in our home business and in foreign negotiations."

The General Electric Company said—

"At our Witton Engineering Works as well as at our Carbon Works, we have for the last five years introduced the metric system. We shall at all times be glad to give you every possible assistance."

Sir Joseph Crossfield & Sons, Ltd., said—

"As a practical example the metric system has been adopted within the works."

Messrs. Burroughs & Welcome said—

"We have for many years past strongly recommended the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures, believing it to be the only rational system for commercial as well as for scientific purposes."

Messrs. Liberty & Co., with a knowledge of both the English and French systems, said

"We have a very important branch of our business in Paris, and therefore use both systems, the metric and English. We can therefore speak with authority on the advantages of the decimal system, both in regard to measures and coinage, and we look forward to the reform which the Decimal Association is striving for, to end our present cumbrous and wasteful method."

Mr. S. Whiteley, Principal of Whiteley's Business Training College, Sheffield, said—

"It is with great pleasure that I can testify to the increasing use of the metric system by all firms in this city having a foreign trade; in fact, a knowledge of the metric weights and measures is fast becoming an absolute necessity to workmen engaged in the various mechanical trades of Sheffield."

The head of the Whitman & Barnes Manufacturing Co., said—

"It seems impossible that men could be found who would not immediately see the advantage of the use of mm. gauges, when it is considered that the use of the mm. sizes steadily increases, that all foreign countries, with the exception of the United States and England, are pushing forward, and have found the mm. system most valuable and preferable to the old system of inches and feet, which have been a source of trouble in all countries."

There were any number of these illustrations which he could read, and they made one really doubt whether the alleged objections which were said to come from the engineering trade could be taken as serious. In the electrical trade the metrical system was used entirely, for the electrical standards were only expressible by metric measures, and it seemed to him clear that not only the engineering trade, but the whole trade throughout the country would reap incalculable benefit from the adoption of the system. One other objection made was that in France, the home of the decimal system, the old-fashioned measures were largely in use. But that was not so; the old-fashioned names were in use, but not the weights and measures—there was the livre, half a kilo, and the sou, but that was five centimes. If anybody used the word sou everyone would understand that it meant five centimes. It was absurd to say that the metric system was not practically universal for all industries, and it was absurd to say that France was not satisfied with the metric system. If any hon. Member doubted that let him suggest to any intelligent Frenchman that they should go back to the old weights and measures, and hear the reply that he would give. Then there came a very serious objection, that which the hon. Member for Clitheroe represented, namely, that it was impossible to apply the metric system to the textile trade. If that was so, how was it that so many took the contrary view? Mr. Ernest B. Fry, Shipley, Yorkshire, Consulting Textile Expert and Examiner in Woollen and Worsted Spinning to the City and Guilds of London, said—

> "Some of the opponents of the metric system instance the use of the English textile standards for counts, etc., in some of the Continental factories, and this has undoubtedly arisen because of the large proportion of English machinery in use in these factories, and the very large quantity of English yarns sent out to these countries, but this is a very poor reason for perpetuating these innumerable standards; but, on the other hand, I know personally of instances here in which managers in the mills make the whole of their calculations on a metric basis because of its simplicity, and then convert their results into English standards for use in the mills. There are also many warehouses in the Bradford district where the metric system has been in regular use for several years. A great deal too much is made of the supposed difficulty which would occur in making an alteration, but I am strongly of opinion that within a few months of its compulsory adoption it would be working with the greatest smoothness in nearly every case, and with far less cost in changing than its opponents make out."

That gentleman professed to be speaking of his own knowledge. Then there was Mr. Rowlett, ex-President and present Vice-President of the Leicester Chamber of Commerce, and Examiner for the City and Guilds of London Institute, agent for yarn and india-rubber thread; he said—

> "I consider the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures in this country not only desirable but absolutely necessary."

And further on he said—

> "The objectors to the metric system make much capital out of the fact that the metric countries have not yet been successful in introducing metric numbers of yarn (1,000 metres per kilogramme and per number; thus, No. 25—25,000 meters per kilo—into general use. As a member of the permanent Committee of the *Congres international pour l'unification du numerotage des fils*, I am in a position to state that this failure is entirely due to opposition from England and America."

And further on—and this appeared to be a very important point——

> "The spinner objects that if he spun metric numbers he would have to alter his machinery at considerable cost; but this is quite a fallacy. There is no difficulty in spinning half numbers and even quarter numbers, but there is an impossibility of spinning always exactly the same number, and this is so well recognised in the textile world that a variation of quarter number above or below, equal to half number is always allowed. In spinning, it is always possible, without any expense, to get within this margin of the metric count, and even, in many cases to substitute the English one without any change."

He was not able to say whether that was so or not, but it was given on high authority, and went a long way to disprove the contention that the metric system was not adapted for the textile trade. Mr. Rowlett continued—

> "This proves that the difficulty of supplying metric numbers is only imaginary, and the remark applies to worsted, flax, etc., also."

That gentleman pointed out how we were losing certain markets for yarns through not using the metric system; he said—

> "It is a fact that during recent years a large import trade in French and Belgian unbleached cotton yarns has sprung up, and their competition threatens to become serious."

And further that—

> "The long-suffering wait for the metric system will, it is to be hoped, be materially shortened by the recent action of the East Indian buyers of silk and woollen yarns. Our conservative methods have cost this country nearly the whole of the custom of these gentlemen, and several of them now refuse to have anything to do with British goods unless the makers adopt the metric system of counts. The Indian Government is, in consequence, considering the question of legalising the Continental system and of getting British manufacturers to adopt it."

Then there was a gentleman, the author of a book called the "Principles of Worsted Spinning," and "Principles of Wool Combing," who said—

> "It may interest you to know that, in writing my book on 'Principles of Worsted Spinning,' I was driven to adopt a decimal system, in the chapter on drawing, from sheer inability to explain what should be the relation of various weights in various processes, by any other method."

And further on—

> "For these reasons I am convinced that the introduction of the metric system into the worsted trade would tend to greater lucidity and simplicity, which would quickly repay both employers and employed if it were only properly understood."

He was, of course, not able to say what weight ought to be given to these opinions, but they merited some reply. But if it were the fact that the duo-decimal system was necessary for the textile trade or for a large part of the textile trade, the duo-decimal system must remain. Therefore as the promoters of the Bill were willing to meet the representatives of the textile industry in such a way as to enable this to be exempted, under whatever conditions were found to be proper, from the metric system—and he was sure they would be—the arguments against it would be robbed of a great deal of their force, and they might obtain the support of the hon. Member for Clitheroe. He had not spoken of our foreign trade, but as everyone knew, our Consular Reports abounded with appeals to the British merchants to adopt the metric system. The Consular Report of Brazil said—

> "The English system of weights and measures is a great drawback to obtaining the proper recognition in Brazil of the qualities of articles of British manufacture."

The monthly journal of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt said with regard to iron and iron goods—

> "England practically is entirely out of the trade."
>
> "The British standards do not suit this market."

The Consular Report of Algiers said—

> "One of the greatest drawbacks to British trade in this colony is the antiquated system of British weights and measures."

These quotations could be largely multiplied. There were, of course, objections. Anyone could find objections to everything. There must be a certain amount of inconvenience, loss and disadvantage in a change of this kind, but he respectfully submitted that the advantages overwhelmed the objections, the gain would vastly exceed the loss, and the convenience would be so great that the inconvenience was not worth considering. A large part of the trade of the manufacturers of this country was done with the Colonies, and we were shortly to have a conference of the Colonial Premiers; therefore it was most desirable that by a Second Reading of this Bill freedom should be given for the discussion of the matter at the Colonial Conference. Scientific men were with the supporters of the movement; the greater part of our chief trades were with them; all our educational authorities, and nearly all scientific men, were with them; it was inevitable that this reform should be effected sooner or later. A great opportunity was offered to the House in the duty which it seemed to him lay before them. It was a simple duty, an educational duty, a commercial duty, and a patriotic duty. Some day some House of Commons would pass this reform. Let the present be that House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time." (*Mr. Straus.*)

*Mr. HAWORTH (Manchester, S.) said that those who opposed this Bill were accused by its mover of being mere obscurantists, and against the reform because it was a reform. From the beginning he wanted to make it clear that neither he nor those who saw with him in the matter based their opposition on any such thing. It had been assumed that they considered the present system an almost perfect system incapable of any reform. They took up no such attitude. They admitted there were many anomalies, and they were quite ready to sit down with the mover and seconder of the Bill and see whether it was not possible to do something towards standardising the weights and measures of the country. They might introduce a system of decimals into the present system of weights and measures, and everybody would admit that the calculation by decimals rather than by fractions saved time and facilitated calculation. Whether it tended always to accuracy was a matter they might argue at some future time. Those who worked in decimals knew what stupendous mistakes were made by placing the decimal point in a wrong position, and it was easy to place it in a wrong position in a long row of figures. In what position did the question stand to-day? It was surrounded and crowded with an enormous amount of misunderstanding. The Bill had behind it an association called the "Decimal Association," according to the letter heading of which the association was established to promote the adoption of a decimal system of weights, measures, and coinage in the United Kingdom. The Bill assumed to change every weight and measure in the land, and left out one of the objects of the association, which was to promote a decimal system of coinage. He commended the secretary of that association for the wonderful ingenuity he had displayed for months and years past in obtaining signatures, from those who might be supposed to agree with it, in favour of the metric system. The request was sent out with that heading on the paper, and hon. Members had given their names as being in favour of a metric system under an entire misapprehension owing to the letter heading.

*SIR. H. NORMAN: Were they not asked whether they would support this Bill?

*MR. HAWORTH said one hon. Member who was asked before the Bill was published whether he would favour it, wrote and asked by what authority his name was included among those supporting it, and the secretary of the association eventually admitted that the letter did not bear the interpretation that had been placed upon it. As the hon. Member for Wolverhampton had referred by name to his hon. friend the Member for Clitheroe, he might mention that the hon. Member's name appeared, and he was going to second the Motion for the rejection of the Bill. The Chamber of Commerce for the City of Manchester had been in the habit every year of passing an abstract resolution in favour of the metric system, and it was only when it came within the region of practical politics that they sat down to consider the resolution, and on the last occasion they passed the old resolution with the following proviso—

> "Provided you except the textile and engineering trades."

In the district which he represented, if they excepted those two trades, there would be nothing left. The city corporation were also pressed by the Decimal Association to bring forward a resolution, but it was by no means universally accepted. He himself was told by a very highly respected member of the council, a past Lord Mayor, that if they had not thought it would not have come up for a great many years, they would not have passed the resolution. The Associated Chambers of Commerce, which had passed resolutions year after year in favour of a metric system, gave the matter their consideration only recently. It was heatedly discussed, and the resolution was finally rescinded. He also noticed from the *Sheffield Independent* that the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, after formerly approving it, had also met and passed an almost unanimous resolution against a metric system. The fact was that when passing those resolutions people thought that they were voting for a decimal coinage or for some system of working a decimal system into our present system of weights and measures, while retaining our present standards. No one would deny that the metric system was useful in such a thing as chemistry, or pure mathematics. When it was introduced into France, it was introduced in order to secure uniformity, because at the time of the Revolution there was a hopeless want of uniformity in weights and measures in that country. There was another reason for its introduction. At the time of the Revolution, it was thought that there should be a system which must be brand new, something which had never been seen before, and scientific men set to work to find such a standard as would be effective and at the same time new. But had that metric system succeeded in pushing its way and making itself uniform as the measure standard of the country in which it had been adopted? and what were its advantages? They had it on high authority that a wise man counted the cost before going to war. How much more would a wise man count the cost before making a change in that system which had brought this country to its present state of prosperity? The Manchester District Engineering Federation of Employers had passed a resolution deprecating any measure having for its object the compulsory use of the metric system. Since then he had received numerous letters from private firms. He had also received a letter from the Engineering Association at Wigan, asking him to give the strongest opposition to the Bill as being one of a most detrimental character to their trade. He had had a communication from a firm of engineers who said that for a portion of their work they had been using the metric system, but that they were strong opponents of the Bill, because for the major portion of their work it would be absolutely impracticable and disastrous.

*SIR H. NORMAN: Why?

*MR. HAWORTH said he was simply giving the words of the engineers, and, after all, they knew their own business. They stated in their circular that every machine, gauge, templet, rule, and other devices constructed with regard to existing measurements would have to be discarded. That was the manner in which the engineers put forward their own case in the matter. But the position would be worse than having merely to discard the existing things; they would have to be practically duplicated throughout the length and breadth of their shops; plant would have to be kept for making all old screws, and so on, which would be required for repairs for the work which had been done within the past fifty years; while for new work they would require entirely new scales, gauges, etc. Reference had been made in the debate to various engineering firms. The Vice-President of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Pittsburg, said the introduction of the metric system would produce no benefit to his company or most other companies, but would mean a loss in time, money, and efficiency for a considerable period. A prominent honorary official member of an engineering association had assured him that he believed that something like 80 to 90 per cent of the engineers of the country were against the Bill. The estimate put forward of the cost to the engineering trade alone was about £100,000,000 sterling.

*SIR H. NORMAN: By whom, and when?

*MR. HAWORTH: By the engineers.

*SIR H. NORMAN: It was made by Mr. Thomas Parker, whom I quoted, and when challenged by Lord Kelvin, he withdrew it at once, and admitted he had no authority for it.

*MR. HAWORTH said he would admit, then, that a hopeless mistake had been made. He had, however, consulted many engineers on the point. Mr. McFarland at Pittsburg calculated that it would cost £200,000, and the hon. Member for the Altrincham Division said that it would cost him £20,000, and his engineering works were comparatively small. But supposing that the estimate of £100,000,000 were exaggerated, and that the amount would not exceed £50,000,000, it was an enormous penalty to put upon the back of the engineering trade of the country. It had been calculated by various firms that it would cost from £10 to £15 per man to make the change. According to the Franklin Institute in America, one of the highest of such institutes in the world, it would cost from £30 to £120 per man. He would come to the paper trade, the Anglo-Saxon race concerned in which bought and sold by the pound weight and inch measure. A man in the trade could judge to a nicety the weight of paper by its feel. If the pound weight and inch measure were taken away the man's skill would be taken away. In regard to railway companies, apart from the changes that would be involved in the engineering department, a complete survey of the freights and rates would be necessary, and a re-arrangement would have to be made throughout the country. Parliament ought not to say to the railway companies that they must undertake such a work whatever it cost and whether they wanted it or not. In navigation and land geography great confusion would arise if the metric system were made compulsory. In shipping measurements of draught, displacement, and tonnage were almost universally on the British standard, and if altered in this country they would have to be altered all over the world, unless confusion was to be introduced in shipping, where harmony now prevailed. When a Bill was introduced in the House of Lords land was exempted. Hon. Members could please themselves about using that as an argument for showing that the Lords were astute and business-like, or that they were so selfish that they only looked after their own interests. But the inclusion of land within the Bill meant that all records of deeds of land had to be retranslated. Although it did not apply to old contracts, whenever an acre of land had to be conveyed it would require to be reconverted, and an infinite vista of trouble would be opened up. If for no other reason the House ought not to make the proposed change compulsory. The small shopkeeper's difficulty had been belittled, but in every tiny shop the little weights and measures at present in use would have to be done away with. Very few sets of weights and measures cost less than £1. With regard to the cotton trade, with which he was somewhat closely acquainted, it was admitted by the hon. Member for Wolverhampton that there was very considerable difficulty. The English measure of 840 yards was practically universal in the cotton trade. Countless millions in India and China had grown accustomed to the English measure. The great deputation consisting of 100 representatives of operatives in the textile trades and some eighty or ninety members of the Masters' Association was absolutely unanimous in protesting against the Bill's being made compulsory. The hon. Member for Mile End had mentioned some names of those who were against it, but knowing something of Lancashire and having been engaged in the business for a number of years, he was bound to say a number of the names mentioned he had never heard of. Mr. Tom Garnett, however, happened to be a personal friend of his, and when talking to him the other day he asked him where he was on this Bill. Mr. Garnett replied—

> "In a kind of way we are all in favour of it theoretically, but I am dead against it as a manufacturing man."

He did not know how the names had all been secured, but he had shown how many had been secured by a misunderstanding. As to the weaving trade, he had been told by a manufacturer that it would cost 30s. a loom to make the necessary alterations. There were 750,000 looms in Lancashire, and taking the cost at only £1 a loom the Bill would put a penalty on the weaving trade of Lancashire of £750,000.

SIR H. NORMAN: Nothing whatever in the Bill makes that change necessary.

*MR. HAWORTH said he was quite willing to be corrected if he were wrong, but he knew what he was talking about. It would be impossible to remove from the minds of countless users of Manchester cloth and yarn the suspicion that when the denominator was changed there would be something wrong with the weight. People would turn against the goods at once, and procure them from France or Germany or America. America especially would have a door opened to her to take away our present trade with India and China. He mentioned an instance in which goods were rejected in China because the stamp, which had been placed the wrong way up for years, was at last corrected. That showed the ignorance and superstitious frame of mind which it would be difficult to convince that the goods sent out under the metric system were the same as those sent out previously. To ask them to convert their present standards into millimetres was a ludicrous farce. Then there was the question of wages. Lancashire operatives received wages which were largely based on the length of cloth. It had taken years to build up those price lists, and the process had been marked by countless frictions, strikes, and threats of strikes. If they were now going to alter the standard they would destroy all those wage lists, and the work, with all its dangers from strikes and dislocations of business, would have to be gone through again. He ventured to say that there would be suspicion aroused, among both the masters and the men, and that there would be infinite danger of strikes, with their attendant miseries, taking place in Lancashire. All the records, too, would be wrong, and "repeat" orders would be impossible of fulfilment. The French system had broken down. The Minister of Commerce in France issued a circular last year to the various Chambers of Commerce in that country, stating that in spite of all that the Government could do, there was still a hopeless lack of uniformity in France, and appealing tc the Chambers of Commerce to bring about, in their own districts at least, that which the Government, after 100 years, had failed to bring about. France adopted the metric system 100 years ago, when the industries of France were in their infancy, and even now uniformity had not been produced. How, then, was it possible to introduce the metric system into a country with a gigantic commerce like that of Great Britain? As showing the difficulty of establishing a new system, he pointed out that in France there were still three if not five denominations of silk, and not one was the metric system. Chaos still reigned abroad, as was proved by the frequent complaints received from Frenchmen and Germans engaged in the cotton industry, as to the hopeless want of uniformity in their own numbering of yarns for textiles. He also reminded the House that the recently revised German tariff for textiles had been made in English terms and not in metric terms. In Holland the metric system was taught in the schools, but in many cases the workmen worked in English standards, and had to begin to learn after leaving school what an inch and a foot were. At home Willan & Robinson, electrical engineers, gave the metric system a trial for several years, but abandoned it because they found that the English system was more suitable to their work. In the United States Congress the proposal to make the metric system compulsory had been brought up three or four times. On the last occasion the proposal only received four votes. In America it had been legal to make contracts under the metric system since 1866, but comparatively few people had adopted it. Though the system had been legal in Canada since 1870, few had adopted it. Surely it was for the people of this country to be left to adopt it if they liked, the metric system having been made legal? They were told that thirty-seven out of forty countries had adopted the metric system. The miserable minority of three were Russia, the United States, and Great Britain. In population, and from the point of view of commerce, those three nations constituted a majority. The population of the countries which had been described as a "miserable minority" was 570,000,000, as against 450,000,000 in the countries which had adopted the metric system. The majority argument, therefore, fell to the ground. It was not for the majority mountain to budge an inch, but for the minority Mahomet to change his system and come into line with the rest of the world. He asked the House not to be led away by the notion that the present system was wasting the precious years of a child's school life. Only a very few weeks in the seven years of a child's school career would be saved if the metric system were adopted, and a fine training in mental arithmetic would be lost. There was no demand in the country for the change. The House could not do anything more tyrannical than to compel people to change their habits of life and their system of industry, to throw away their old records and start on a fresh basis, which it would be difficult for them to understand and impossible for them to carry out. Some might intend to vote for the Second Reading in the hope of amending the Bill in Committee. He begged the House to do no such thing. A vital principle of this kind could not be amended. The proposal to grant exemptions would only make confusion worse confounded. He asked the House to reject the Bill, and let it go forth that England intended to stand by her weights and measures which had served so well, antiquated though they might be.

*MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said that reference had been made to an answer which he gave to a question on this subject. It should be remembered that these things came with a rush at an election when candidates had not time to read every comma in every circular which was sent to them. For years he had in his official position made his calculations of wages and prices on the decimal system, and he would favour a decimal system to-day; but to ask him to change the standards on which it was based was another thing, and a thing which was impossible so far as the cotton trade was concerned. Indeed, the mover and the seconder had admitted as much, for they had agreed to an exemption of the cotton trade from the Bill. But if there was to be uniformity, it would not be brought about by exemptions of that description. To-day he received the following telegram from Glasgow—

> "Metric System Bill; Second Reading to-day. This chamber oppose Bill because, first, public opinion not ripe; second, loss through change too serious for any compensating advantage conferred; third, impracticable in some industries; fourth, measure pressing such changes should be by Government. Healy, secretary, Scottish Chamber Manufacturing Industries."

The members of the chamber were gentlemen who had a practical knowledge of trade, and their opinion should be recognised by the House of Commons. The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, of which he had been a director for the last twelve years, were to a man against the Bill. That town was mainly connected with the engineering and cotton industries. The Oldham Chamber of Commerce had also asked him to oppose the Bill. A conference of representatives of employers' and operatives' associations in the cotton industry, and of representatives of the textile engineering and mill furnishing trades, was held in London on the 14th inst., and a resolution was passed unanimously and emphatically condemning the Bill. As the branch which he and the other members of the executive represented alone numbered over 200,000 people, he thought they were entitled to some consideration in a matter which vitally affected their trade. The book which he held in his hand had cost the cotton operatives thousands of pounds during the past fifty years to get to its present state. It contained calculations with regard to wages which were necessary to every mill and workshop in the cotton industry.

MR. STRAUS was understood to say that similar tables could be prepared for use under the metric system.

*MR. SHACKLETON said that prices must be calculated no matter what the system was. If the hon. Member would introduce a system which would abolish his office as secretary he would thank him for giving him the opportunity of devoting more time to the business of the House. If the Bill came into operation, the book would not be worth the paper on which it was printed. It would become a dead letter. They would have to start afresh, and substitute for the present calculations, which the workpeople understood, a mass of new calculations which, while conferring no advantage, would not be so simple or so easily understood. Everybody in the trade, from the smallest tenter to the head manager of the mill, had been trained to make calculations on the present system, and if the operative were told that the difference in the method of calculation brought about a different result he would say that he had done the same amount of work as before, and he would require his secretary to make it right. He had heard a story in connection with a question of wages which he thought was worth telling. It would be remembered that Australian gold used to circulate in this country. It was not the same colour as our own. A workman got as part of his pay an Australian half sovereign. He did not like the yellow coin, and, taking it back to the office, he said, "If it's no matter to you, will you give me a Blackburn half sovereign?" The House need not think that operatives could realise all the niceties of the metric system. If the system were introduced, there would have to be an increase of secretaries in every district. There were in some districts 30,000 or 40,000 looms. Every one of the reeds in those looms would have to be scrapped under the new system. Even so small a question as the loss or gain of a hank or thread when they considered a piece of yarn 20,000 yards long meant a considerable item. In his opinion this was too complicated and too serious a matter for the House to entertain in any shape or form. Let them take, as an example, the list he had mentioned which contained so many details. That list was now practically an Act of Parliament, because through the efforts of the workpeople's organisations they had now a rule that if an employer put that list up in his mill it constituted the legal price. Without a strike or without any struggle at all except a mere notification, they could get those prices paid, and he put it to the House that it would be a most serious thing to interefere with what had been settled as a uniform rate, and such a change as that which was suggested was more than he dared face. In reference to the prices mentioned in the list to which he had referred he could not get them on the metric system and, therefore, it would be impossible to apply it in any shape or form. They had in the little book he held in his hand calculations sufficient to cover 1,000 or 2,000 different kinds of cloths, and they worked to a thousandth part of a penny in their prices. He could assure the House that arrangements of that kind had not been brought about in a week. As a matter of fact those calculations had been the labour of years, and to upset them by the adoption of a Bill of the kind under discussion was simply nonsense. The mover of the Bill had said that the cotton trade might be exempted; but how could they then secure uniformity, which was one of the objects claimed for the Bill? It had been stated that Mr. Garnett was in favour of the Bill.

He happened to know Mr. Garnett fairly well, and he felt sure that that gentleman was not anxious to have his 700 or 800 looms upset as well as all his operatives and their work because of this measure. As a matter of fact he did not believe that Mr. Garnett was in favour of the Bill except theoretically. It would be found that many of those who had declared themselves in favour of the metric system, when they came to apply it to their own business would not consent to do so simply for the sake of the theory. People might be willing to accept metrical decimalisation in theory, but when it came to upsetting their own particular business they would strongly object to its adoption. What reason was there for the introduction of such a system in the cotton trade? The cotton trade came next in importance to the agricultural interest, and they could not deal with a huge interest like that on a Friday afternoon upon the Bill of a private Member. If such a thing was to be done at all it certainly was a matter for the Government to take up. It would be a very serious matter indeed for the Government to deal with, let alone a private Member. In the year 1906 Lancashire sent 6,261,000,000 yards of cloth abroad in the shape of cotton goods, representing a value of something like £75,000,000. That was only about four-fifths of their production, because one-fifth of it was used at home. The great bulk of the Lancashire trade in cotton goods was with India, China, and Japan. He would like to consider for a moment the case of India. Lancashire exports to India were 99½ per cent. of their total imports of cotton goods. The Oriental was always doubtful and suspicious of any change. Our Indian subjects had got used to buying their clothes according to their present lengths and prices; to alter them would be the very worst thing we could do. The Hindoo for a good many years had bought Lancashire goods by the yard and understood certain textures by the marks now adopted, and if by this system they upset all that they would be sure to damage the trade of Lancashire to a considerable extent. Who was Lancashire's most serious competitor in cotton goods? It was America, and that country adopted the yard measure. If Lancashire was compelled to adopt the metric system, what a splendid opportunity it would be for Lancashire's competitors to send in their cloth on the yard measure at the same time that Lancashire goods were being exported under the metric system. He thought the House would have too much common sense to do anything of that kind. They should remember that in this matter in India and China they were not dealing with trained educated business men, but with millions of people who had no education at all, who had grown up under the present system and custom, and to interfere with it now would be a very serious matter. The position which had been taken up on this Bill by the House of Lords was very significant, for they had blessed the measure provided it did not apply to their own particular interest, namely, land. He thought that attitude would be typical of many more interests when they had gone more closely into the subject. Had the promoters of the Bill ever realised what it meant to the humble purchaser? Up to the present they had only considered how it would affect the manufacturer and retail seller. What about the small retail buyer? It had been said that the stone in one place was 14 lb., while in the next parish it might be 15 lb., or even 16 lb. But that could be remedied by the President of the Board of Trade issuing an order stating what should be the standard. It was unreasonable to expect that every man, woman, and child in the country who had been brought up in the existing system would have learnt the equivalent for an ounce and a pound and a stone in five years time. If the Government were going to hold an inquiry, it should be done not by professors, but by practical men engaged in the engineering, cotton, woollen, silk, and other industries. The mover of the Bill had quoted the names of firms employing 500 men in favour of the Bill, but he had said nothing about a firm like Platt Bros. who employed 10,000 men and were dead against the metric system. What was the good of quoting, say, thirty-seven countries in favour of the Bill when three other countries, containing a population greater than all the thirty-seven countries put together might be quoted against it? Before the House came to a decision the whole question ought to be thoroughly gone into, and then the various phases of the subject might be carefully examined. He would advise the supporters of the Bill not to press it forward at that stage. If it was pressed to a division he believed they would be able to defeat the measure. He did not say that he was against any improvement in the present system, but he did say that they would not be acting in the best interests of the nation or in the interests of international trade if they made this tremendous change. He had much pleasure in seconding the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Haworth.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe) said the speeches of the Mover and Seconder of the rejection of the Bill constituted the most convincing argument to any reform that it had been his fortune to listen to. It was a fortunate thing they were not active politicians in the forties—for they would have shown to Mr. Cobden, in harrowing tones, how fatal and disastrous to the economic and social life of the nation his free trade propaganda was likely to be. The hon. Gentleman opposite had given the House several reasons for throwing out the Bill. Let him take two or three. The hon. Gentleman said that it was possible that the decimal point might be put in the wrong place. That would seem to show that the person was negligent who was keeping the accounts rather than that the principle of the Bill was faulty. And if loss accrued, they would say what George Stephenson said, when asked what would happen to a cow which strayed on the railway line: "So much the worse for the coo." The hon. Member then asked whether we should wage war against the existing order of weights and measures. He would have not the slightest compunction about waging war against a system barbarous, primitive, and cumbersome to a degree. Inconvenience at the outset there would be—he was not concerned to deny it. Was there ever any reform indicated which did not entail some sort of disturbance, temporary in its character but yet inconvenient while it lasted? The hon. Member for Clitheroe spoke with unrivalled knowledge of the views and feeling of the textile operatives. He believed the hon. Member exaggerated the difficulties likely to be caused and surmounted, but was he not a little inconsiderate, seeing that Clause 3, Section (c) clearly gave His Majesty, by Order in Council, the power to exempt any calling or industry which so desired? So far as he was aware, and certainly so far as the main line of cleavage developed by the debate had revealed them, the objections urged against the Bill were to a great extent sentimental. He would deal very briefly with the history of this proposal. During the session of 1895 a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire whether any, and if so what, changes in the present system of weights and measures should be adopted. The Committee practically confined their attention to the consideration of the metric system, and they agreed to these three recommendations: (1) That the metric system of weights and measures be at once legalised for all purposes; (2) that after a lapse of two years the system be rendered compulsory by Act of Parliament; (3) that the system be taught in all public elementary schools as a necessary and integral part of arithmetic. The Bill which was passed in 1897 carried out the first of the recommendations, and the evidence taken by the Select Committee clearly proved that there was a genuine demand among some of the large trades in some of the important commercial centres in the country. The question for the House to consider now was whether there had been any advance of public opinion towards the adoption of the metric system. The Leader of the Opposition refused to give the authority the power to make the change in November, 1895, on the ground that public opinion was not ripe for it, and in March, 1899, the late Mr. Ritchie gave the same reply to a deputation. Our Colonies, however, had not moved so slowly on the path of progress. It was abundantly clear that they appreciated the advantages which would accrue to them and to the Empire generally if they were to inaugurate a system which would facilitate all commercial dealings with countries outside the British Empire. The Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire passed resolutions in favour of the metric system in London in 1900 and at Montreal in 1903. A similar resolution was passed by the Colonial Conference of 1902, by the Cape of Good Hope House of Assembly and the Transvaal Chamber of Mines; while the New Zealand Legislature, by an Act passed in 1903, enabled the Governor to establish the metric system in that Colony on 1st January, 1906. The Colonies would seem to declare unanimously in favour of the metric system, not merely because it would benefit them individually, but because it would simplify commercial intercourse between the various parts of the Empire, and tend to stimulate the expansion of foreign trade, by assimilating our standards to simple and scientific standards in vogue except in Russia. He had yet to learn that the Mother Country could always afford to turn a deaf ear to the appeals which came to her from her Colonies. A glance at our system of weights and measures was sufficient to show that it was hopelessly illogical and complex. There was no proper relation between lineal measurements and measurements of capacity. A cubic inch meant nothing; it was not adopted as a standard of liquid or solid measurement. We used a pint which was 34·66 cubic inches. But it was when one came to consider our system of weights that its inherent absurdity became apparent. The troy pound consisted of twelve ounces; the pound avoirdupois contained sixteen ounces; and even the troy and avoirdupois ounces were different weights If these things were often a source of confusion to educated persons, what were they to children, who wasted so much time at school in trying to learn them, and to the uneducated; and more important still, what meaning did our weights and measures convey to the foreigners with whom we had such important commercial relations? He would ask what was the meaning of the term "stone" as a measure of weight? A stone of sugar meant 14 lbs.; a stone of dead meat 8 lbs.; while a stone of glass weighed 5 lb. A bushel of corn in Sunderland weighed 46 lbs.; in Shropshire 72–75 lbs.; and in Newton, 80 lbs. An Act which would at one step remove all these anomalies, which served no purpose but to assist unjust and unfair dealing, would be of material assistance in establishing uniformity throughout the country. The next matter which he would ask the House to consider was the large amount of educational time at present devoted to teaching children a complex system of weights and measures. Inquiries were recently made of 197 headmasters in elementary schools in order to ascertain how much of the scholars' time was occupied in these profitless learnings. 161 headmasters said one year, thirty said two, and six said three years! And what was the result? They all know that the child was wearied and disheartened by the acquirement of the knowledge, and it was more than probable that the well-known decline in the taste for mathematics was partly due to that cause. If the children could only be released from the onerous task of learning all these weights and measures, and be allowed to learn the metric system, their time could be more profitably spent in other pursuits; and he might mention that the importance of the question was fully recognised by the National Union of Teachers, who had passed strong resolutions in favour of the metric system. He need not pause to describe the metric system at length. It was sufficiently well-known to Members of the House. What he regarded as its chief advantage was the co-relation between lineal measurement, weight and volume. Thus one cubic centimetre of water weighed one gram. One thousand cubic centimetres or one litre of water weighed one thousand grams or one kilo. Hence one cubic metre of water contained 1,000 litres, and weighed 1,000 kilos, or a metric ton. The system was simplicity itself; and even if its adoption might involve some expense to those who were at the present time provided with old-fashioned weights and measures he contended that the advantages which would accrue must soon repay any small loss. What was the position of the British manufacturer who made goods for metric countries as well as his own? He must work to one system for the home trade and to another for his foreign trade. That means increased trouble and expense from which our keen foreign competitors —such as Germany—were entirely free. If they were to adopt the metric system, backed up as they were by our Colonies, he was convinced that many other countries, like the United States and Russia, would be compelled to follow suit.

In the result there would be an international system of weights and measures to the great advantage of all concerned. The different sections and fractions into which the principal religious communions in the world were split up constituted sufficient stumbling blocks, gave rise to sufficient sources of strife and conflict in the moral sphere, to induce the House to try at least to eliminate all avoidable complexities and embarrassments from the domain of commercial and practical activities. One could not help describing it as such—our anachronistic method of computation and measurement, which really belonged to mediæval times, so sterilising to our intercourse with the foreigner, so harassing to our own people across the seas, cried out for reform. It was high time Parliament assisted the enterprise sought to be achieved by the moderate measure now before the House, for the purpose of establishing a system which reason, science, and mathematical symmetry alike concurred in indicating as by far the simplest and best.

SIR GEORGE SCOTT ROBERTSON (Bradford, Central) said he had listened with great pleasure to the speeches made by the mover and seconder of the rejection of the Bill, and almost everything that could have been said in support of that Motion had been said. The hon. Baronet who had just sat down had spoken of the metric system that had been introduced into Germany and the facility with which it had been arranged. Seventy years ago, when it was introduced, there were forty different sets of weights and measures in Germany. What was the position there now, after the system had been in force nearly forty years? They altered their system at a time when industrial development was very low, and if they had to do now the difficulty of introducing a metric system would be enormously great, and even now the old measures in Germany were in constant use. In fact, it was remarkable how in countries all over the world where the metric system was supposed to prevail the same thing happened. In America they had the old French measures in constant use, and the old Spanish measures in Mexico. Mexico, which was supposed to have been a pure metric country for the last twenty-five years, had every possible system, English, French, Sterling and the United States silver money used for payment Troy weight, when paying in gold they used another weight. Philadelphia once made a mistake in measuring 100 feet by making it 3 inches more than it should have been, and to this day they had a measure in Philadelphia of 100 feet 3 inches because it had always been so. In France it was the same; the Minister whose duty it was to see to this matter admitted that he had no means at his disposal to prevent the people from using the old measures, and all he could do was to appeal to everybody to assist him in persuading the people to abandon the old system. That showed conclusively that it was not possible to have a compulsory system of metric measures. He believed that the French metric system was not suited to our requirements. Of course, several suggestions had been made, as for instance that an inch or a foot metric system would be better than the French one. It was quite possible, but the discussions showed that there must always be a vast difference between the manufacturers and the scientific men. They were trying to reconcile two irreconcilable things. The result would be that we should have the binary system for manufacturers and the metric system for scientific men, accountants, and so on. It stood to reason it must be so Children and savages divided into halves and quarters; it was a perfectly simple thing to do. They were sometimes told that calculation by fives was simple because there were five fingers on each hand and five toes on each foot, but that was not what happened in savage countries. He supposed that no Member of the House had lived so much among savage peoples as himself, and what he had always noticed was that when they put up their hands and their feet it did not count for twenty, but for one for each hand and one for each foot. Let them remember what was said with regard to the English pint. It was once said by a President of the Board of Trade that the strongest Government in this country could not change the measure of the pint. The arguments had been extremely well put on both sides, but what he thought was wanted was a long and carefully conducted investigation by a Commission into all the aspects of the case. It so happened that our methods were the methods of the United States and all the English speaking countries, and the advent of the conference of the Colonial Premiers would, he thought, give a unique opportunity of having a Commission of all the English speaking peoples, because we could have all our Colonies, some Americans, and our own people as well. Most important of all would it be to have not too large a proportion of scientific men on such a Commission. Scientific men did not understand manufacturing. It was the one thing they could not understand, while their prestige and fame in the scientific world often gave their opinions on these Commissions a weight which they did not deserve. The scientific man wanted to deal with as many fractions as possible, the manufacturer with as few. He wanted to work to a quarter or an eighth. Another point which was very important was that if all these exceptions were made—the measurement of land which the House of Lords Committee excepted, the textile and engraving trades which were excepted by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, coinage and navigation which were excepted by Lord Kelvin, the measurement of time, which was excepted by the whole world — there would be nothing left. A good deal had been said about the suffering a child had to undergo in learning unnecessary tables; but a child had to develop its memory, and in that way its memory was developed. He felt sure that the House would agree with him in thinking that even if a metric system were desirable in this country, the French metric system was not suited to our requirements. Moreover, we could not have a compulsory system; there would have to be a British compromise—for manufacturers the binary system and for scientists the decimal system. He hoped the House would not give its sanction to the principle of a metric system by allowing a Second Reading to be given to this Bill. He could not understand the argument that by passing the Second Reading the whole question would be in a better position to be placed before the Colonial Premiers. If, as he thought, it was an excellent idea that the matter should go before them, it was much better that it should go before them without any sort of certificate from this House. It was true that he had signed a document approving of the institution of the metric system. When the matter was laid before him he examined it very carefully, and having come to the conclusion that there was a great deal to be said in its favour he, with the usual mental reservations of course, put his name to it. Having heard further evidence he, honestly following his conviction, had withdrawn his support from the proposal. The cost of such a change of system would be enormous. In the United States Congress Mr. Leiter two years ago introduced a compulsory measure of a similar kind, and he estimated that one and a half million dollars would be required to effect the change. Some said 500,000,000 and some that 1,000,000,000 dollars would be required; he naturally estimated the cost as low as he could, but other estimates went very much higher. In this country all sorts of estimates had been made, and in one Birmingham firm alone the estimated cost of the change in the works was £50,000. Whether that was an exaggerated estimate or not there was clearly necessity for very careful investigation before the Bill was read a second time.

MR. KELLEY (Manchester, S.W.) thought that a great many of the statements made by the hon. Gentlemen who moved and seconded the Motion for the rejection of the Bill would be found to have no value when they came to be examined. He would not notice the reference of the hon. Member the Manchester alderman who said that if all who voted on the occasion in question had known the real meaning of the resolution they would not have voted for it upon any consideration, except to say, that it was putting at a very low ebb the intelligence of the worthy alderman. If he had not looked into the matter he ought to have done so. The Bill, as he read it, only referred to buying and selling, not to manufacturing. It had been said that the working classes would require a ong time to understand the change; but as a fact they had been teaching themselves these things for years, at their own expense. They had teachers in all districts, and they had signed petitions in favour of the change with full knowledge of what they were doing, and not with the knowledge derived from the worthy Manchester alderman. He declined to agree with what had been said by the hon. Member for Clitheroe. Nevertheless he thought the difficulties the hon. Member alluded to might be very well got over. He believed that a mistake had been made with regard to the engineering trade in particular. In that trade the opinion of Sir W. Mather was entitled to respect, and that gentleman had expressed himself strongly in favour of the metric system, and had adopted it in his works. In view of the opinions expressed during the debate it would be unwise to push the Motion for Second Reading to a division, but taking advantage of the presence of the Colonial Premiers in this country it would be well to have an inquiry, which they should be invited to attend. As the Americans were about to adopt the metric system it might be a means of causing the matter to be taken up in the United States and might lead in the desired direction.

*MR. BARRAN (Leeds, N.) said the Bill had been defended upon the two grounds that it had simplicity and would be a source of great advantage to trade. With regard to its simplicity, it would be noticed that it left out of all consideration a decimal system for money. He could quite understand why the introducers of the Bill had left out the monetary question, because they had there to face either an entirely new system of money or the very serious question of reconstituting our monetary system on the basis of the present sovereign. He would not go into the question except in its bearing on the system of weights and measures. If they touched the coinage and adopted a decimal principle they would have to start with the florin. The florin was twenty-four pence, forty-eight halfpennies, or ninety-six farthings. It would be seen that that was 4 per cent. short of the decimal system. Consequently if the florin were adopted as the decimal coin, every article sold for a penny or for a few pennies would be sold at 4 per cent. less than at the present time. Therefore, the promoters of the Bill had done wisely to leave the monetary question out of consideration. The question had to be dealt with as it affected foreign trade. In America and the Colonies there was a decimal system of money, but the inch and the yard and our own system of weights and measures. Was it to be suggested for a moment that we should retain our fractional system in money, thus retaining the difference between ourselves and the United States and our Colonies, and that we should adopt a decimal and metric system in weights and measures which would put us out of harmony with those countries; that was, that we should adhere to the monetary system where we at present differed, and alter the measure system where we at present agreed. The House was told that it would benefit our trade, but he thought so far as the facilitating of international trade was concerned the Bill was worked on wrong lines. He was in favour of a wide extension of both the metric and the decimal systems, and was ready to join in a thorough revision of English weights and measures; but he pointed out some anomalies that would arise from the compulsory adoption of metric weights and measures. Goods going abroad were to be exempted, but that did not get rid of the greatest difficulty. All traders must regulate their weights and measures according to those of the country to which they were selling their goods. Did they suppose for one moment that the textile or engineering trade were to be compelled to adhere to the present system in respect to the goods they sent abroad and adopt the metric system at home. Textile goods to the extent of £75,000,000 went abroad from Manchester, manufacturers would obviously adhere to that system of measurement, and yet, according to this Bill, they were to be told that the articles they sold to the English consumer must be sold on a different basis. That was where the absurdity of the compulsion came in. At the present time, if an engineer were selling to a foreign country, he sold, if the consumer wished it, according to the metric system. A great many people in the textile trade in his district adopted that position, as did also many engineers, as they had heard to-day, and he wished to protest most strongly against the assumption that it had never dawned upon either the engineers or textile manufacturers of the country to send their quotations to foreign countries in the metric system. Wherever required, the quotations were made on that system. If we were going to make any alterations which were really to the advantage of our commerce with other countries had we not better take the step along with them? If the bulk of those countries were not willing to adopt the alterations, let us retain our measurements as long as they did. In the home trade we were to be compelled not only to buy on a different basis from that on which foreigners bought, but we were to be prohibited from continuity in our purchases. If the Bill became law, a firm which wished to put down more machinery would be compelled to give their order under the metric system. It was well known that it was impossible to convert from an inch to a metre, and yet the Bill said that in future if shafting or machinery was to be put down it must be done by the metre instead of by the inch. The House should throw out this Bill of a compulsory character, and concentrate its attention upon rectifying a few of the greatest anomalies in the country, instead of endeavouring to make compulsory a system which would interfere with our greatest industries and do a great injury to the home as well as the foreign trade of the country.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I think all who have listened to the debate will acknowledge that it has been conducted with singular ability on both sides. The case for the Bill was put by the mover and seconder in able and powerful speeches, and I think the same applies to the mover and seconder of the Amendment. The arguments have been placed very clearly before the House. I think it is common ground in this controversy that we should have unification, if it is possible to obtain it, on some simple and scientific principle. But the real difference of opinion is how best to obtain it, and whether public opinion is sufficiently advanced to justify the House of Commons in imposing a system of this character on what is, at any rate, a large and powerful minority. I am not sure either that there is perfect agreement that the metric system would be the best reform, even if we are agreed that a reform is desirable; but we need not enter into that now, because the proposition of the Bill is one of a character which you can examine without going into the more complex problem which is at the root of the question. It is acknowledged that the change would cost money. Even a change of weights and measures alone would cost the retail traders of this country about two millions, and the cost to the engineering and textile trades would, of course, be greater still. Yet I agree that if the thing to be done were of sufficient importance, and would promote the industry and commerce of the country, it would be worth while sinking a considerable capital expenditure. But would it? Let us first deal with our foreign trade. My hon. friend who has just sat down has pointed out that the greater proportion of our foreign trade is with non-metric countries, and if we change our system to the metric system without arranging a similar change in our Colonies, and without inducing the United States and the East to come into a general arrangement, we should deprive ourselves of an advantage which we have at the present moment over our metric competitors. I know it is said that we lose trade in the metric countries at the present moment, because we do not sell on a metric basis. I do not agree. When we get a sufficiently large order it is no great trouble or expense for a clerk to convert the quotation into metric figures. But assuming our system is a slight handicap in metric countries, it has to be remembered that the conversion of our system to the metric system would remove a handicap from our metric competitors in our home and Colonial markets. [Cries of "Free Trade."] I am merely answering an argument of an hon. Member who put the contrary case. It is no argument of mine at all. The bulk of our customers at the present moment are non-metric countries, and within the last few years we have increased our trade with those countries in much larger proportion than with metric countries. My hon. friend has said that the reason we do not change our system is because of apathy. If, however, we are doing pretty well in these trades at the present moment, there is apprehension of any change which might be for the worse. Take the textile trade. We have the greatest export textile trade in the world, and that is all based on the present system. We are selling cotton goods in the East to a population which would not comprehend the change, and that population being naturally very suspicious, our trade might be very considerably impaired in that quarter. That would be a very dangerous experiment, and I hope it will not be embarked upon. Quotations have been made from consular reports, in which complaint is made that our manufacturers in dealing with metric countries fail to quote in metric figures. In reference to a particular report of this kind from Germany, in which it was said manufacturers here were losing business because they would not quote metric figures, I made some inquiries in Manchester of the then Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomson, and this gentleman said that the real reason was that the orders they got from that particular district were not worth attending to. They would require the manufacturers to have a special kind of cloth manufactured in such small quantities that it would not be worth while; and this gentleman added that if they had had orders for cloth manufactured on a large scale in the mills of Lancashire they would have sent quotations in metric figures without any difficulty at all. I thought that was a very good answer. Let us take the home trade. Supposing you had a compulsory measure for that trade, could you really enforce it? The metric system has broken down hopelessly in France. It is rather significant that after 100 years of compulsory metric measurement the Minister of Commerce in France has been obliged to appeal to traders to assist him in carrying out the law, not by means of compulsion, but by means of inducing traders to use the legal standard. That is exactly the suggestion made by an hon. Member who said, "Do not bring in your law first, and after 100 years appeal to the Chamber of Commerce." You must first of all get industrial opinion to agree to the change, and you cannot possibly carry it through while you have nearly 40 or 50 per cent. of the manufacturers of the country not merely unconvinced as to the desirability of the change, but convinced that the change will do them harm. Anomalous measures will exist to the end of time. One hundred will be a decimal figure but 100 eggs are 120. Then there is the baker's dozen. The hon. Baronet has asked what is a pint? Let the hon. Baronet ask an agricultural labourer, and he will soon get a reply. But let him go to an agricultural labourer and ask him if he would like ·56825 of a litre of beer and see what reply he will get then. These measures will never be altered. They are rooted in custom and habit, and no matter what laws the House passes it will be impossible to get rid of them. The change has failed in France, and it always will fail. Those who are responsible for the Bill should take the suggestion of the hon. Member for Clitheroe into account. I am with the promoters of the Bill if it is possible to introduce it without doing great injury to our trade; but before passing a Bill you must first get all these powerful interests in the country ready to accept the change and to make preparation for it. The hon. Member for Clitheroe has suggested that the traders should appoint a committee of their own. It is not a question for a Royal Commission. It is a question of bringing the manufacturers and traders of the country to a common understanding, and that can be done only by means of such a committee. Then, if they came to such an understanding, it would be time to come to Parliament to have legalised the standard on which they agreed. Until they do that Parliament will be acting very unwisely if it enforces a measure of this kind upon the trade of the country when it is quite unripe for it.

*MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said he had heartily enjoyed the speech of the right hon. Gentleman. It would be, said the right hon. Gentleman, a wise thing that Chambers of Commerce should agree upon a system before it was passed into law. When all the Chambers of Commerce and all the manufacturers and others were agreed it would be quite unnecessary to pass a law on the subject. If the non metric system had been the law, it would have been illegal to use the metric system, as some manufacturers were doing at present. Why should they stereotype any system in this country? If anybody wanted the metric system he could adopt it. A friend of his, one of the cleverest engineers of the day, had said it would be retrograde to adopt the metric system, and not to the advantage of the engineering trade. The opinions put forward in its favour had been chiefly those on behalf of elementary schoolmasters and children attending elementary schools, who were a most important class, but who did not represent the commerce and manufactures of the nation. If people wanted to do their calculations quickly all that they had to do was to use some calculating machine. All calculations of time, all geometric, algebraic and trigonometrical calculations were independent of the metric system. At the present moment there was more uniformity in the use of English measures than in the use of any other measures in the world. English measures were in use all over the Empire and in the United States, India, and China. To bring in the metric system would be to destroy the most wonderful system we had got. We had measuring machines for a one-millionth part of an inch. It would be a distinct going backwards to pass any law on the subject. Many people had a notion that the metric system was a fine thing, and so it was, but it had come into partial use in this country voluntarily. If the metric system were now made compulsory, it would put a stop to invention, and a still better system, which might yet be invented would be stifled by law. He appealed to the House not to be led away by the advocacy of one particular kind of measurement or another, and not to restrict people in the free use of any system.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 150. (Division List No. 90.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Bryce, J. Annan
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, William
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dillon, John
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Ferens, T. R.

Ffrench, Peter
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gooch, George Peabody
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon., S.)
Hervey, F. W. F.(Bury S. Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hunt, Rowland
Idris, T. H. W.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. M.(Falkirk B'ghs
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Pearce, Williams (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Price, C. E.(Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rendall, Athelstan
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Vivian, Henry
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitehead, Rowland
Wilkie, Alexander
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. B. S. Straus and Sir Henry Norman.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ashley, W. W.
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Benn, W.(T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. G.
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A.(Worc
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J.(S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C. H.(Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H.(St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duckworth, James
Dunne, Major E. Martin(Walsall
Everett, R. Lacey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gill, A. H.
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Helmsley, Viscount
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Long, Col. Charles W(Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
M'Callum, John M.
Maddison, Frederick
Marks, G Croydon(Launceston)
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, Charles N.(Doncast'r
Nuttall, Harry
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford, E.)

Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Sears, J. E.
Sheffield,Sir BerkeleyGeorge D
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, Hon. W.F.D.(Strand)
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Starkey, John R.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilson, A Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Haworth and Mr. Shackleton

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to. Second Reading put off for six months.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure; Mr. Arthur Lee.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Lights on Vehicles Bill; Major Renton, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Fiennes, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Abel Smith, Mr. Arthur Stanley, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. Rose, Mr. Rendall, Mr. Vaughan-Davies, Mr. Long, Mr. William Nicholson, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Cathcart Wason, and Mr. C. H. Corbett.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures (in respect of the Railways (Contracts) Bill); Mr. Akers-Douglas; and had appointed in substitution, Sir Frederick Banbury (in respect of the Railways (Contracts) Bill).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Merchandise Marks Bill; Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Middlemore, Mr. Field, Sir Benjamin Stone, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Maddison, Mr. Ridsdale, Sir William Holland, Mr. Crosfield, Mr. Wadsworth, Mr. Boland, Mr. Ellis Davies, Mr. Cleland, and Mr. Hudson.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at Ten minutes after Five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Saturday, 23rd March, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Birkenhead, Lincoln, Milford Haven, Shipley, and Warrington," presented by Dr. Macnamara; supported by Mr. Burns; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 132.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Brumby and Frodingham, the Appleby Joint Cemetery District, and the Rugby Joint Hospital District," presented by Dr. Macnamara; supported by Mr. Burns; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 133.]

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Denaby Main; Dinnington; Habergham; Kiveton Park; Pilsley; Plaspower; Shirland; and Whitehaven; to lie upon the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Petition from the London Association for Protection of Trade, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of the Fifty-second Annual Report on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland for 1906 and Forty-second Annual Report on Vaccination [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Crofters' Commission for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Aberdeen for the year ending 15th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 93.]

COAL EXPORTED.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st February; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 94.]

LIGHTHOUSES, ETC. (LOCAL INSPECTIONS).

Copies presented, of Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, of their Inspection of Local Lighthouses, Buoys, and Beacons [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 95.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Annual Series) Nos. 3748 and 3749 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING STATISTICS, 1906.

Copy presented, of Statistics as to the operation and administration of the Laws relating to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors for the year 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Protection of English Fishing Grounds.

MR. MALLET (Plymouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the effect upon the fishing industry in Plymouth and other Devonshire ports of the depredations of foreign steam trawlers in neighbouring waters, the Lords of the Admiralty will institute an inquiry into the action of the two vessels detailed to maintain a continuous patrol of these waters, and will, if necessary, substitute for them more efficient vessels, better equipped with searchlights, and possessing a higher rate of speed.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The whole of the very complicated question of the protection to be afforded by His Majesty's ships to the fishery interests in the seas round the British Isles is under special review by the Admiralty and other Departments concerned. It is not, therefore, considered necessary to hold a special inquiry into the action of the two vessels which now carry out a continuous patrol, and which are considered to be efficient for the purpose. Steps are being taken to fit them with searchlights.

Gaelic Interpreter at Galway County Court.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that it was always the practice to attach a Gaelic interpreter to the Court of the County Court Judge in Galway; is the office at present vacant; and, having regard to the fact that Galway county is largely an Irish-speaking county, will he take steps to have a competent person appointed.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) I have referred this Question to the Recorder of Galway, with whom the appointment of interpreter rests. The Recorder informs me that there are interpreters in the Clifden and Galway divisions of the county, but that a vacancy exists in the Loughrea division. He has endeavoured, by means of advertisement and otherwise, to obtain a suitable person, but has not so far succeeded in doing so. The matter is not one in which I have any power.

Teachers' Deferred Annuity Fund.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Teachers' Deferred Annuity Fund is entirely made up from deductions from the salaries of teachers; whether the amount of the annuities paid from the fund has been very much less per annum than the amount accruing to it from such deductions; and how the balance of the fund is being disposed of.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Deferred Annuity Fund is formed entirely from the contributions of teachers. The fund has only been in existence for some seven years, and the number of contributions which have been made by any individual contributor and upon which his annuity would be based is necessarily small. Moreover, as annuities are not payable till sixty-five, any teacher now receiving an annuity must have reached a comparatively advanced age before contributing to the fund. Any present comparison of the annuities paid and the contributions received must therefore be very misleading. If the fund is to be permanently solvent, the amount of the annuities paid out of it in the early years of its existence is necessarily very much less per annum than the amount accruing to it from the teachers' contributions. But the assets and liabilities of the fund are now the subject of an actuarial inquiry in accordance with the statutory provision, and the Report of this inquiry will, in due course, be laid before Parliament. The balance of the fund is invested, under Section 3 (3) of The Elementary School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1898, by the National Debt Commissioners in any securities in which money held by the Commissioners on account of savings banks may be invested.

Revenue from Postage to Hong Kong—Subsidy to Canadian Pacific Railway.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): To ask the Postmaster-General what was the amount of postage collected last year upon the letters sent to Hong Kong from this country *via* Canada; and what is the annual subsidy paid by the British taxpayer to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for carrying such letters.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The amount of the postage collected on correspondence other than parcels sent from the United Kingdom to Japan and China *via* Vancouver during the year 1906 is roughly estimated at £7,000. To this should be added £1,400, the British share of the postage on parcels, and a sum of about £3,000 received for the conveyance of foreign and Colonial mails. The annual subsidy payable to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is £60,000, of which £15,000 is contributed by Canada. Under the new contract this payment covers the conveyance of mails for all places, and not only for Japan and China.

Hong Kong Mails.

MR. HAROLD COX: To ask the Postmaster-General what is the time taken by the mail from London to Hong Kong *via* the Suez Canal as compared with the time taken *via* Canada; and what is approximately the weight of letters sent by the former route as compared with the latter.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The time occupied in the transmission of mails to Japan and China by British services *via* Vancouver and *via* Suez is as follows—

	Via Vancouver.	*Via* Suez.
To Yokohama	23 days.	36 days.
,, Shanghai	27 ,,	31 ,,
,, Hong Kong	30 ,,	27 ,,

A longer period is occupied when the mails are despatched *via* Suez by other than British services. The weights of the mails sent by the two routes by all services during the year 1906 were as follows—

Via Vancouver.	*Via* Suez.
187,100 lbs.	629,100 lbs.

MR. HAROLD COX: To ask the Postmaster-General what is the number of mail services per annum from this country to Hong Kong *via* the Suez Canal, and what is the number of mail services *via* Canada; and what is the net annual cost to the British taxpayer of the two sets of services respectively, after deducting receipts from postage.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) There are seventy-eight despatches of letter mails ner annum from this country to Hong Kong by British, French, and German packets, and thirteen *via* Canada. It is impossible, even in the case of the service by British packets, to separate the cost of the service to Hong Kong from the cost of the service generally, nor, if that could be done, would the deduction of postage receipts give a true indication of the net cost, since these receipts have to meet also the cost of the inland handling and conveyance of the correspondence, and, in the case of the Suez route, the cost of conveyance by special train across France and Italy.

Governing Body of New Technical College at South Kensington.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): To ask the President of the Board of Education who will be the representatives appointed by the Board under the scheme for the governing body of the new Technical College at South Kensington.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Until the charter, which will provide among other things for the constitution of the governing body, has been granted, it would be improper for me to make any statement on the matter.

Teachers and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

VISCOUNT VALENTIA (Oxford): To ask the President of the Board of Education on whom the responsibility falls to compensate teachers of voluntary schools under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, the managers or the local education authority.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The liability for paying compensation to teachers in voluntary schools under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, falls, by Section 1 of that Act, on the employer. The employer is defined by Section 13 as including any body of persons corporate or unincorporate and the legal personal representative of a deceased employer. I have no authority to decide who is the employer of a teacher in a voluntary school within the meaning of this section.

Navy Estimates—Vote 9—Guns in Reserve.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the provision made under Vote 9 of the Estimates for 1907 and 1908, for completing the heavy guns for the armoured ships included in the 1905–6 programme, and for advancing those for the armoured ships laid down in 1906–7, includes provision for completing or advancing guns to be held in reserve.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Answer is in the affirmative.

Navy—Nucleus Crews.

MR. NIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the minimum nucleus crew of three-fifths of the full complement to be carried by battleships and armoured cruisers of the Portsmouth and Devonport divisions of the Home Fleet will include reserves undergoing their training in accordance with the new system; and, if so, in what proportion.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Answer is in the negative.

Delay in Completion of Cruisers of the "Invincible" Class.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the increased cost set down for the new cruisers of the "Invincible" class in the Navy Estimates is due to changes in the design; and whether there will be any delay in the completion of these vessels within the arranged period of two and a half years of the date of the contracts.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) There is no increase in the total cost of the three vessels of this class, and there is no reason to doubt they will be completed in the contract time.

Importation into Canada of German Cultery described as "Sheffield."

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that large quantities of felt and cutlery made in Germany, and improperly marked "Sheffield," have recently been imported into Canada; whether any such goods so marked are imported into this country; and whether any, and, if so, what steps are taken by the Board of Trade to prevent the importation of such goods into this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) With regard to the first part of the hon. Member's Question, my attention has been called to various paragraphs which have recently appeared in newspapers, and I am causing inquiry to be made on the subject. As regards the latter portion of the Question, I have no reason to suppose that goods marked in the manner suggested are imported into this country, but I am in communication with the Commissioners of Customs, who have full power to detain imported goods bearing false indications of origin. If the hon. Member will inform me as to any specific instances which have come within his own knowledge, I will cause immediate inquiry to be made into the matter.

Relation of Retired Colonial Governors to Commercial Interests of Colonies.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will lay upon the Table a copy of the circular recently issued concerning the relation of retired Colonial governors to the commercial interests of Colonies with which they may have been connected.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) A copy of the circular will be laid.

Trinidad Labourers' Contract for Work on the Panama Canal.

SIR F. BANBURY: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will lay upon the Table a copy of the contract under which Trinidad labourers have undertaken to work on the Panama Canal.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State will request the Governor of Trinidad to furnish him with a copy of the contract, which I will lay upon the Table when received.

SUPPLY (CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES).

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

*Mr. SPEAKER ruled that an Amendment by the hon. Member for Montgomery Boroughs raising the question of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales was out of order, because it would require legislation to carry out the proposals of the hon. Member, and legislation could not be discussed upon Supply.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): With all submission to your ruling, Sir, may I ask whether, since every Member for Wales is pledged to put this matter first on his programme, it is impossible to bring it under the application of the principle of redress before Supply?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may ballot or bring in a Bill, but the question is not relevant to Supply as there is no Vote in the Civil Service Estimates relating to this matter The

Church in Wales can only be disestablished by legislation, and legislation cannot be discussed in Supply; the two matters do not come within the same category.

*MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.) in moving to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "in the opinion of this House, the provision for primary education in Ireland is insufficient and unsatisfactory, and that the interests of the Irish people have been and are suffering most ruinous injury from the long delay in applying a remedy," said the Amendment was one in regard to which the people of Ireland were in common agreement; so also he believed were the Members of that House, seeing that the Opposition Whip, from whom they might have anticipated some disagreement in regard to concessions to Ireland, had not felt it his duty to issue a whip on that occasion. Primary education in Ireland —the topic on which he had to speak— had been shamefully neglected in the past, and a demand for its better treatment was made by persons of all classes and all creeds in that country. At representative meetings in all parts of the country resolutions had been carried declaring the present system to be defective, the management costly, and above all that the Government was unjust and illiberal to Ireland in this respect as compared with its support of education in other parts of the United Kingdom. For every £1 spent on education in England, 17s. was devoted to education proper and 3s. upon official machinery; while in Scotland the proportions were 16s. 2d. and 3s. 10d. respectively, and for Ireland 13s. 6d. and 6s. 6d. Did not those figures afford justification for the resolution, the terms of which he had quoted? The present Chief Secretary for Ireland had not occupied his present position long; it was not perhaps the most important one he would fill in the course of his career, but still it was one of great importance. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman had already investigated the administration of various branches of his Department, and by that time he must have found that in all of them there was an appalling neglect of the best interests of the country and that some radical change was needed. He sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to make some announcement that day in regard to primary education which would prove his appreciation of the urgency of the matter. There was indeed no Department of Irish administration where the consequences of the defects to which he had alluded had been so disastrous as in the Education Department. The Irish administration was not entirely at fault. The Government of the United Kingdom was largely to blame by reason of the unequal financial treatment it extended to Ireland. All Irish wrongs were deeply rooted in the past, although perhaps the wrong in regard to education did not date so far back as some others. In 1891 a special grant in aid of education was made in respect of the burden placed upon the people by compulsory education, a grant of 10s. per unit of attendance in all schools in England, and corresponding grants were made to Scotland and Ireland in proportion to their contribution to the Imperial Exchequer. That proportion worked out eighty parts to England, eleven to Scotland, and nine to Ireland. But if Ireland had obtained her share of the grant on the basis of attendance at school, she would have received one-twentieth more than she actually did receive for several years. Mr. Goschen was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, and he was asked by the hon. Member for Mid. Lanark to change the method of payment and to pay both Scotland and Ireland on the basis of attendance. He replied that, in view of the different educational circumstances of the three parts of the Kingdom, complications would undoubtedly ensue if the grant to Ireland was based on attendance at schools, instead of on the same principle as the Probate Grant, *i.e.*, in proportion to the contributions of each country to the Imperial revenue. A few days later Mr. Goschen stated there was some doubt with regard to Ireland, and he was prepared to give her the benefit of the doubt, she being the poorer country. But Mr. Goschen's successors found that a time had arrived when such a distribution would be favourable to Ireland, and in the year 1897 the change was made. By that time compulsory attendance at school had told its tale in England. In five years the attendances had increased by 1,500,000, and in Scotland by 160,000, whereas in

Ireland there had been a decrease of 5,000. If the contribution to Irish education had been continued on the basis of contribution to revenue it would have told in favour of Ireland. That would have been too good a thing to expect, although at that time it had been discovered by the Royal Commission on Financial Relations that Ireland was contributing one-ninth of the total revenue of the United Kingdom more than she ought to be called upon to pay. A new shuffle was therefore made, and the attendance of pupils at schools was made the standard of all three countries, notwithstanding Mr. Goschen's statement that the circumstances of the countries differed. The British Exchequer had to be saved, and therefore Irish education must be starved. What were the circumstances which accounted for the difference between Ireland and Great Britain? Passing by historical reasons, the effect of foreign rule and its effect upon character which developed carelessness as to education with the consequent non-attendance of children at school, and without dwelling upon the unsuitability of the teaching in the schools with its cold Saxon flavour, he would call attention to the hard fact of the poverty of the country produced by a constant economic drain of her wealth. That economic drain was traceable to two causes—to the exorbitant rents extracted by the landlords from their tenantry all through the last century, which Parliament itself had to interfere with and to check by legislation; and secondly, the excessive taxation, amounting in fifty or sixty years to hundreds of millions sterling. That drain still continued; there was no recuperative power in the country; it could not be expected any more than it could be expected from an invalid who had a quantity of blood drawn from his body every day. Under these circumstances the Irish poor scholar was not like the happy English child of whom he was compelled to read: he was ill-clad and ill-fed, living remote from the schoolhouse—cold, cheerless and insanitary, as he would show—and he submitted that under these circumstances to insist on equality of attendance with the highly favoured children of England and Scotland was a palpable injustice—and moreover an injustice which was a wrong of their own making, and by which, therefore, they had no right to benefit. But in 1897 the basis on which the grant was made was changed, and 10s. per unit of attendance was the standard applied to Ireland. In consequence of that change, down to the year 1905–6, Irish education lost £263,000. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover was the first to recognise that the attendance of children was an unjust standard to apply to Ireland, and in the Ireland Development Grant Act he adopted the standard of population. That standard should be applied all round. In the Estimates of last year England received a grant of £13,139,600, or 91·2 pence per head of the population. Scotland's grant was £1,972,128, or 100·1 pence per head of the population, and Ireland's grant was £1,393,223, or 76·2 pence per head of the population. If Ireland's grant had been made on a population basis, she would have received, on the English scale of 91·2 pence per head, £269,815 more than she received last year, and if it had been calculated on the Scottish scale of 100·1 pence per head, she would have received £434,290 more than she received last year. They claimed that the population basis was the only just one. It had been accepted by the House in regard to the Development Grant, and if abandoned for one thing it ought to be abandoned all round. He would like to bring his figures up to date. The increase in school grants had been for England in the last two years, £744,270; Scotland, £205,264; and for Ireland, £16,639. Perhaps the House would allow him to present the matter another way. Since 1901–1902 the increase in English school grants had been 73 per cent. In Scotland the increase had been 51 per cent.; and in Ireland 1·5 per cent. It was not fair to inflict an injury upon the Irish children and teachers on account of a sparse attendance which was the result of an artificial poverty produced by England's wrongs. The whole system of grants for Irish education must be changed if justice was to be done. All that he had said dealt with the school grant, and before he departed from the financial aspect of the question, he could not help referring to the Irish Development Grant. That grant, created anew by an Act of Parliament passed by the right hon. Member for Dover, was before that time called the Equivalent

Grant. It was a grant given under 2 Edward, Chapter 42, and it was converted into what was now called the Development Grant of Ireland. When the amount was fixed, the grant in aid in England, of which it was the equivalent, was £1,400,000, and it was now £2,485,000. In England the grant was constantly increasing, but in Ireland it was a fixed quantity no matter how taxation fluctuated. No matter how much Ireland might contribute to the Imperial Exchequer, she got no more in respect of the Development Grant. A Question was addressed the other day with respect to the grant, and the Chief Secretary said he did not see his way to reopen the question. He would have to reopen it. It was imperative that he should. He had a second observation to make with regard to the grant. No part of the corresponding grant made for England was used for any purpose other than education, and he wished to call the attention of the Chief Secretary and particularly of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury to the fact that immediately following the grant in aid under the Act of 1902 which he had stated was £2,485,000 and which was this year increased by £11,000, was a grant of £100,000, "special provision for new schools." He wanted to know under what Act that was made. Was it under the 2 Edward or under the Act creating the Aid grant? Was it for buildings? It was an entirely new grant, and if the right hon. Gentleman would be good enough to tell him how it came to be included in that Estimate he would be thankful. He wanted to know where they were in respect of the Irish Development Grant. If it were for buildings, why was it not in the Public Works Department? As he did not get any reply from the right hon. Gentleman., he assumed that the special provisions for new schools meant for buildings. The £100,000 was not for education, it was for schools. Was that so? If it was not for education how did it come to pass that the Irish Development Grant was charged with £25,000 this year for the purpose of building schools? £70,000 had been granted for the past two years for the purpose of building a training college in Marlborough Street. That sum could not be justified. If it were under the Act of 2 Edward they ought to be told so. Again, if it were for buildings then they also ought to be informed of it. He found charged against the Irish Development Grant the sum of £15,000 for Marlborough Training College and £25,000 for National School Buildings. He was sure these items would need some explanation. He also found grants for the training of teachers and maintainance grant £396,245, an increase of £53,486; that was an item which was separately charged in the English Estimates, but placed against the Irish Development Grant, and he would like to know on what ground these corresponding items were differently treated in the two Estimates. Under what Act had that figure been inserted? Then, again, they had the building grants for training colleges, etc., £150,000, or £135,000 more than last year. What were all these for? If they were for the purposes of primary education, then similar or corresponding items ought not to appear against the Irish Development Grant; because it was passed to enable the Lord-Lieutenant to apply the sum of £185,000, (a) for the purpose of education and (b) for economic development and transit facilities. Were the items he had read out for economic development? Were they for transit facilities? No. Were they for education? They could not be, because they did not charge corresponding items to English education. What was there in Irish Departments, and especially in this Department, that they should be treated so differently? He could not account for it except on the principle that "To him who hath much shall be given and whosoever hath not from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." The Chief Secretary the other day said he did not see his way to re-open the question of the Irish Development Grant; but last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, said that he would see, in educational matters in particular—in which Ireland had a real grievance—that Irish funds were not unduly encroached upon, and that the Imperial Exchequer should contribute all they could be expected to contribute in justice to the special interests of Ireland. Surely the Chief Secretary would see his way in course of time to re-open the question. If £185,000 for Ireland was in 1902 the equivalent of a grant of £1,400,000 for England, then, if it went on in like proportion it should now be £328,475. There was thus a continuing loss to Ireland, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover was responsible for it. He no doubt had his defence, but the loss of hundreds of thousands to Irish education was a continuing loss, ever increasing in ratio to the increase in the English Grant. The Member for Dover, in fixing the amount, said that money was being wasted on ill-considered projects, and elementary education was not levelled up to the necessary standard. Money was lavished on intermediate education, and money was thrown away. That, however, was not the opinion of the National Board of Education in Ireland, for they, at the same time, were writing to the Treasury saying—

> "That an equivalent grant for the purposes of education amounting to £185,000 per annum was passed for Ireland in 1902, but that it had been converted, and the consequence was that that immense grant which might have placed Irish primary education on a satisfactory footing had been of a positive disadvantage to Ireland."

The Irish Development Grant from the very start had been a mockery to Ireland. Its provisions were first that the money should be applied to education, and secondly, to economic development and transit facilities in Ireland. The Report of last December did not show a penny spent for educational purposes save a few items for building Marlborough Street Training Schools and £28,000 for assistant teachers. But where had the rest gone? It had gone to the flotation of the Irish Land Fund in order to buy out the Irish landlords. Section 38 of the Land Act, 1903, provided that £50,000 a year for four years should be taken for the purposes of what was called the Land Purchase Fund. Thus, £200,000 had been swept away. £20,000 per annum was given to the Congested Districts Board and £5,000 to Trinity College subject to certain provisions. That was all gone, and even poor Trinity College would lose its £5,000. All the rest was guaranteed for loss incurred by issuing land stock at a discount. Inroads had already been made upon the fund to the extent of £70,000 in respect of that issue, and any further issue at 12 per cent discount would incur a charge upon the fund of £3,900 for every £1,000,000 issued. Let them see how that would work out. They had £20,000 for the Congested Districts Board, a charge of £5,000 for Trinity College, and £70,000 for discount upon land stock. That made in all £95,000 up to the present time. In that total he did not take into account the £50,000 for four years; he assumed that would come back during the present year because it would be exhausted. He assumed also that the £70,000 for land stock was charged on little over £20,000,000 issued. The issue had been at the rate of £7,000,000 a year. Supposing the Government issued at the same rate of £7,000,000 a year that would make £27,000 a year, and in three years there would be an additional charge of £81,900 per year. But there was only £90,000 already available. In three years therefore they would be left with £8,100 that would be gone in a little time, and where was the equivalent grant for Irish education? Where was the equivalent grant for the facilities of transit and economical development, and poor Trinity College's £5,000? All the money had gone to the landlords, and he was not surprised that the right hon. Member for Dover's noble friend (Lord Erne) had said—

> "The landlords of Ireland should never forget that Mr. Wyndham was the only Chief Secretary of modern times who had troubled his head about them; and had worked like a slave to bring legislation favourable to their interests. It was only due to Mr. Wyndham that they should give him this recognition."

He (Mr. O'Connor) had said that the Irish Development Grant was a mockery, when it was introduced by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover, in 1903. It, however, would have been more honest if a Bill had been introduced containing only one clause. And if he had been asked to draft it he would have drafted it as follows: "That a certain sum of money, namely, £185,000, hitherto granted to Ireland out of the Imperial Exchequer for the purpose of primary education as equivalent to certain other sums granted to Great Britain for similar purposes shall be in the future applied to the relief of the Irish Exchequer in its efforts to provide Irish landlords who may sell their estates to their tenants at three years purchase more than their estates are worth." The Irish Development Grant had gone. There was no need to say any more about it. In a few years it would cease to exist, and in the name of the Irish people he demanded that day an equivalent grant to be placed on the Estimates every year according to full measure. He demanded that a further sum, by way of damages, should be forthcoming for loss in the past, and the Estimates made out accordingly in the future. He now had to say a few words about building grants, and here he was quite sure he would have the sympathy and the support of the Chief Secretary who, in a speech a short while ago, said it would take a million of money to put Irish schools in order. In former years grants were made for building improvements by the Board of Education, and the Board of Works prepared the estimates. But the usual niggardliness and cheeseparing went on, grumbling at the proportion of cost given to managers, until finally a proposal was made to shift the burden on to the good old pack-horse the Irish Development Grant. In a Report issued by the Board of National Education last year they found the following—

> "Since the voting of the Development Grant the Treasury have repeatedly proposed that building claims should be placed upon it, and, when it was evident that it was well-nigh exhausted by non-educational services that the rates should be charged."

The Board of Education had been corresponding with the Treasury for fully ten years upon the subject, and they laid before them revised plans; those revised plans had been under consideration for the past four years. On page 7 of the Report they came across the following paragraph—

> "The revised plans and estimates for school building have now been under consideration for nearly four years, and we regret to state that so far from a decision having been arrived at the aspect of the question is even more serious than when we called attention in our Reports for 1903 and 1904 to the prolonged delay in its settlement. All grants for the building and improving of the national school-houses have been suspended since August, 1905, and as the Treasury have recently attached certain conditions impossible of acceptance by us, to their promise of funds for this service, it would seem as if the resumption of the rewarding of aid has been postponed indefinitely."

Then, again, later on, in the Report, they stated—

> "Such is the deplorable position in which the question of building grants has been left after a discussion which has been carried on for ten years. During this long period, although in England and Scotland the principles of school architecture have been constantly improved, and buildings have been erected to suit the needs of any extended curriculum, Irish schools, which were in a much more unsatisfactory state, have been restricted to plans which suited the ideas of half a century ago. Insufficient floor space, insufficient seating accommodation, insufficient class-rooms, and no provision for encouraging cleanliness and sanitation by means of the simplest form of lavatories—such are the features of the Irish schools."

Continuing, the Commissioners stated that, in order to enable them to deal with the large number of cases that had accumulated in consequence of the practical suspension of grants during the past four years, it was necessary that the sum of £100,000 per annum should be placed at their disposal for the next five years, and after that date a reduced sum, which could be decided upon beforehand, should be voted each year in the Estimates. That was the opinion of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland. But the Chief Secretary went one better, for he told his constituents that the Board of Education in Ireland demanded not £500,000 but £1,000,000. If the House would allow him, he would like to read a few passages from the reports of inspectors of the schools during the time the discussion had been going on, with a view to showing how the children of Ireland had been faring during that ten years correspondence. In 1897 the inspector of the North Dublin District, Mr. Purser, said—

> "It is not an extravagant supposition that a large part of the sickness among the children of the country is brought on by badly-ventilated school-houses, combined with want of due warmth in wet and cold weather. It is downright cruelty to have a school-room for the poorly-clad children so cold that an inspector, even with a heavy overcoat on, feels chilled in hands and feet."

Mr. Sullivan, head inspector of the Galway District, in 1897, said—

> "It is painful to see—as an inspector cannot fail to see—little groups of bare-footed boys and girls, miserably clad, trying to make their way, on a winter's morning, to the neighbouring school. In such cases one hopes that the school-room, when reached, may make these

poor children warm and comfortable. Unfortunately, that is not the case. My experience, and it is extensive, is that the school-room which awaits most children, after their walk over bleak roads or paths, is a cold and cheerless apartment. Some sods of turf have been placed on the hearth and lighted, but as yet they give no heat, nothing but a mass of smoke. One day last January—and this day of the school may be taken as typical of many others—I was examining in such a cheerless room as that which I have above described. As the children came in they sat—quiet, melancholy, and miserable-looking—in the desks. I was glad to keep on my overcoat, and I also had the advantage of moving about."

Dr. Beatty, senior inspector, Newtownards District, said in 1899—

> "Another most serious defect arises from the almost indecent, and, with little doubt, unsanitary position of the out-offices. Their restricted use is sowing the seeds of disease in after life. The school-houses, no doubt, help the work of disease. I can count up fourteen monitors who have retired through ill-health, and have, I imagine, all since died. Two young monitors, employed in an over crowded school, have died within a year."

Dr. Moran, senior inspector, Belfast District, said in 1900—

> "Out-offices, instead of being an advantage, are, in some instances, a dangerous source of disease and death."

Mr. Hynes, senior inspector, Dublin Circuit, said in 1903—

> "A considerable percentage of the school-houses must still be described as bad. Some are mere hovels, and were never suited for teaching purposes. The sanitary condition of the premises too often calls for complaint. This is particularly the case in the country schools, where very frequently the clearing of the cess-pits is neglected, probably because the cost of having it done devolves on the teacher, which is most unreasonable."

Mr. Hogan, senior inspector, Dundalk District, said in 1903—

> "A common feature is the bareness of whitewashed walls, unrelieved by pictures, charts, or maps. The furniture is old and meagre, desks notched and unsteady, easels broken, no clock, and insufficient blackboards. Fuel is generally supplied by the pupils and teachers jointly; there is often scarcity at the beginning of the cold weather, and I recently met with cases where no fire was lighted at ten o'clock."

He apologised for having read these extracts at such length, but what an irony it was for the National Board under these circumstances to address a rule to the school teachers that they must promote, by precept and example, cleanliness, neatness, and decency, and to do this the teachers must set an example of cleanliness and neatness in their own persons. Were they speaking of a land inhabited by barbarians, or of a poor and civilised country which had enjoyed the benefit and blessings of British Government for 600 or 700 years? Or were they speaking of a poor country which was allied to a rich one that extracted from its poorer neighbour no less than £10,000,000 a year in taxation, of which £3,000,000 had been declared to be in excess of the amount it ought to receive? If he were an Englishman he would say, "The character of my country, such as it is, is at stake;" being an Irishman, he said the health of the young people of Ireland was at stake, the health of the men and women of the future was in danger, the health of the teachers in the schools was in jeopardy. He called upon those responsible for the Irish government to see to it. He called upon the Irish Chief Secretary to stand up to the Treasury and compel it to do its duty to the country which it robbed without scruple. He had referred to the teachers; it was now his duty to call attention to their condition as briefly as possible. The first observation he had to make was that the salaries of the teachers in Ireland compared most unfavourably with those of their fellows on this side of the channel. Why should that be so? Was their work inferior or of less importance? He submitted that it was not, and upon that submission he called as a witness the right hon. Member for Dover, who on 1st April, 1903, said—

> "The national teachers of Ireland have nobly sacrificed many of the ambitions of manhood in order to provide opportunities to others to win prizes that they deny to themselves the opportunity of seeking."

The right hon. Member for Dover was not the only one who had given that excellent character to the teachers of Ireland. The late Chief Secretary for Ireland, now the Ambassador at Washington, paid a high tribute to the quality of the Irish teachers, and said that during his work on the Commission in the north of England he came across in the schools a number of young Irish teachers who, attracted by the scale of salaries on this side, had placed their services at the disposal of the school boards of this country. Mr. Bryce said that they were men who had the greatest sympathy in their work and were constantly obtaining the greatest success in this country. He had said that the salaries of

Mr. John O'Connor.

teachers in Ireland compared unfavourably with those of their fellows on this side of the Channel. He saw from the Parliamentary Return issued in 1906 that the average scale of the principal teachers was as follows:—England: men, £160 15s. 9d.; women, £109 13s. 6d.; Scotland: men, £179 6s.; women, £90 6s.; Ireland: men, £102 19s. 6d.; women, £82 11s. 9d. The assistant teachers in England got: men, £114 17s. 10d.; women, £83 12s. 6d.; Scotland: men, £122 3s. 2d.; women, £75 2s. 10d.; Ireland: men, £73 2s. 4d.; women, £58 1s. 1d. It would therefore be observed that an assistant teacher in England got a higher salary than a principal teacher in Ireland, because an assistant teacher in England got £114 and the principal teacher in Ireland £102, while in the case of women the assistant teacher in England got £83, while the principal teacher in Ireland got £82. There appeared to be an enormous discrepancy which could only be ascribed to the parsimony that characterised the management of other departments in Ireland. But it must not be supposed that many of the Irish teachers got a larger salary by the change in the system from payments by results to a fixed salary. A change was made a short time ago by which payment by results was done away with and a fixed salary substituted, but all principal teachers were not to have £102 a year. Henceforward a principal teacher would begin his career at a salary of £56, or if a woman at £44. Was that an incentive to any young man or young woman to adopt the teaching profession as a career? In this country a bricklayer's labourer in constant work would earn double the amount in wages, while an ordinary mechanic would have much more than double. It might be said that the teachers in Ireland would rise to a good position. No doubt trained principal teachers with schools having an attendance of seventy or over might have salaries upon which they could live. But only 10 per cent. of the schools in Ireland had an attendance of seventy pupils, so that 90 per cent. of the Irish teachers were condemned to the lower grade and could not hope to obtain the highest salaries. Under the old plan of remuneration the teacher of the first division of the first class in a school with an average attendance of thirty-five could rise to the higher position. It was not so now. He must now have an attendance of seventy children. What was the qualification of the second division of the first class? That a teacher must have a school with an average attendance of fifty. Only 40 per cent. of the schools in Ireland had such an attendance, so that in 60 per cent. of the schools the teachers of first were condemned to the second grade. All those schools which had an average attendance of under fifty were rural schools, and the teachers of those schools were therefore condemned to remain in that position all their lives, with the result that the pupils attending those schools were being taught by men who had no incentive whatever to improve the teaching of pupils or strive to better their own positions in the future. Therefore 60 per cent. of the schools of Ireland must be content with teachers of an inferior grade. That was a very serious hardship. The teachers who taught in many schools under the old arrangement were reduced in their *status*. They would have to take a secondary place and lower salaries, and it would take them many years to regain the position they had in the past. On the change being made some were placed in a position where no increments accrued, so that a large number of teachers in Ireland had no increment going on to their salaries. Teachers in Ireland, if they had good luck, and succeeded in pleasing the school inspectors, would reach the magnificent salary of £127 a year in twenty-seven years, and they would reach the maximum of £170 in thirty-six years. But after forty years service they must retire, so that if they had good luck and there was no black mark against their name, and they happened to please all the cranky inspectors that were sent down to the schools, they would have four years in which to enjoy the noble and magnificent position which they had attained by a a life's devotion. But only 10 per cent. could attain that position; the rest must drag out their lives giving of their best, and, to use again the words of the right hon. Member for Dover, sacrificing many of the "ambitions of manhood in order to provide opportunities to others to win the prizes that they denied to themselves the opportunities of seeking," and devoting their lives to the public service. With regard to those who were in training when the change took place, a con tract was entered into with them by the Board of National Education, and before coming to other matters he would like to show what that contract was. They were bound to sign agreements to follow the teaching profession within a certain period; thus they were prevented from seeking any post in any other branch of the Civil Service. In some training colleges they had to deposit a certain amount of money which was to be forfeited unless they received a teaching diploma, and that diploma was never granted until after two years satisfactory service in a primary school. After that, if they passed certain examinations in mathematics and literary standards, they could be placed in the second branch of the first division, and after that they were entitled to be placed in the first branch of the division. Those in training had specific rights, and those rights were secured to them by contract. That they had such rights was recognised, because he found in a note to Rule 200 a passage by the Commissioners to the effect that in the case of teachers who were candidates for promotion, and who had received their training in the colleges during 1899–1900, special consideration would be given to any promotion qualifications to which they would have been entitled when fixing their future incomes from the State. That was, that all candidates for promotion already in service, and who were not then in training, had their rights recognised. Were those rights carried out? In respect of teachers then in training and those who had been trained but not appointed to places, their rights were completely abolished. They were informed that they must begin service under the initial salaries of the new grade. He submitted that the low salaries were a great detriment to the service. What was the use of saying to a man that at some future time he would have a salary on which he could live and thrive? The consequence was that there was at the present time a great dearth of candidates for the teaching profession in Ireland. Cardinal Logue said last year, in a letter—

> "That they would have no candidates for the office of teacher except such as were physically and mentally unfit for anything else; especially in their country schools it would become almost impossible to have efficient teachers; and the outlook for primary education was very dark indeed."

Last year 242 of these young teachers, costing Ireland £20,000, had left the service and come over to England. He would like to give an instance which came under his own observation of a young man who left Ireland. Two years ago he was a teacher in Dublin at a salary of £56 a year. Had he stayed it would now have been £63 a year. He came to London. He entered the service of the London County Council, and was in receipt of £117 a year. This matter of teachers and teaching was a national one. Ireland must not be left with the refuse. They wanted the best men, men of resource and character, to form and equip the mind of the Irish youth, to enable them to meet and compete with those whom they were bound to meet in foreign lands—people who came from foreign countries where they were educated and where they were not cursed by foreign rule. As to the matter of pensions it was an intricate subject, and having already occupied a considerable portion of the time of the House he would pass it over. But before he concluded he must say a word or two on the subject of the teaching of Irish. There was a great Gaelic revival in Ireland which had excited much enthusiasm among the people for the restoration of the ancient language and its literature. That literature had nearly gone and the Irish language was fast fading away. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary knew that when a language was once lost it might be said to be lost for ever. Scholars had no certainty that they had the proper pronunciation of Greek or Latin. When languages fell into disuse it was very doubtful whether they could ever be restored again in their purity. The Irish language had had a very hard time of it in the past. Laws were made forbidding its use, and schoolmasters were forbidden under pain of death to teach it. It was a capital offence to have a piece of Irish manuscript no larger than the palm of one's hand in one's possession. Manuscripts, under these circumstances, were removed to foreign countries where strangers now studied the Erse and its beauties. Later on, speaking the Irish language was discouraged in the schools under the school boards, and children were punished for using a word in the language of their childhood. They had been sung to sleep in their mother's mother-tongue, but its use was punished as a foul word when used in the presence of the master. He had seen the language extinguished in two generations. He had known the older people to hold their conversation in it, to pray in it and to sing in it. He had seen their children who understood but little of it, and never used it. And he had known the grandchildren whose ears were familiar with the soft sounds of the mother tongue, but whose minds were blank as to the meaning of its words. In that way he had seen it recede from the centre of Ireland to the sea, until one had the sad feeling that the day was not far distant when the last sound of the Irish tongue would be lost in the moan of the melancholy ocean. That was the feeling of the young men of his day. But a new state of things had arisen. The ancient tongue had been arrested in its decay, and a new life had been inspired into it. A gallant band of enthusiasts had resolved that it should live and be restored to strength as a living language, not as a mere academic study, but as a part of the people's being, and they were succeeding. Even the National Board recognised the advantage of the Irish language. They—

> "Are of opinion that in districts where Irish is the home language of the majority of the children attending primary schools, instruction in Irish and the teaching of English through its idioms are of great educational importance, and there is at present a strong sentiment in favour of Irish on a large scale in a large number of primary schools, and the Commissioners believe that the study of a language in which the teachers are keenly interested has an educational value, even though strictly speaking it may be considered outside the programme of an elementary school. Instruction in Irish as an instrument of mental culture for Irish children who speak English as their mother tongue, has long been recognised."

In this connection, if a second language was an instrument of mental culture, here was a second language which alone they had the opportunity of using and which likewise was the one they wanted, and why should obstacles be put in their way? Everybody in Ireland was agreed that the Irish language was desirable for almost everyone, and the only enemy it had in the world was the Treasury. They entered on a long correspondence in 1904–5 in which, of course, the Treasury had the best of it. The National Board, in the course of the correspondence, recorded their belief in the value of bi-lingual teaching, but at the same time they surrendered to the powers at Whitehall, and what was more, they took their beating lying down, like the miserable persons the majority of them were. In June of last year, a grant of some £12,000, which had been made in order to assist the teaching of Irish, was discontinued. And let the House mark how the use of money had been accepted by the people of Ireland. In 1901 the fees paid for Irish amounted to £955 in 109 schools. In 1905, four years after, the amount paid for the teaching of Irish in fees was £12,000 in 1,204 schools. They wanted the grant restored—they wanted that £12,000, and more if necessary. The equivalent of the £100,000 which he spoke of a short time ago would be £13,000, and they ought to get the equivalent of the £100,000 if it was to be given. He was sure he addressed sympathetic ears when he appealed to the editor of Boswell. He knew what the great master thought on the subject. Dr. Johnson, writing to Charles O'Connor, author of a dissertation on the history of Ireland over 100 years ago, thanked Faulkener, the printer, for the book, and solicited O'Connor to prosecute his design, stated that Sir William Temple complained that the ancient state of Ireland was less known than that of any other country, and added—

> "I have long wished that the Irish literature were cultivated. Ireland is known by tradition to have been once the seat of piety and learning, and surely it would be very acceptable to all those who are curious on the origin of nations or the affinities of languages, to be further informed of the revolution of a people so ancient and once so illustrious. I hope that you will continue to cultivate this kind of learning which has too long been neglected, and which, if it be suffered to remain in oblivion for another century, may perhaps never be retrieved."

That was the opinion of a great man, to the study of whose character and writings the Chief Secretary had devoted a great deal of his very brilliant past. That was all he had to say in respect of those matters to which he had drawn the attention of the House. There were many other ways in which Irish education had been neglected, but it would be impossible for him in the time at his disposal to deal with them all. The teachers had many more grievances than those he had enumerated. The administration of the National Board had many faults which he could not now dwell upon. The subject had been brought to the attention of the Government more than once, and many promises had been made in regard to it. Last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer said—

> "Resistance to the claims of Ireland, or anywhere else, does not in the long run rest with the officials of the Treasury; responsibility rests with us, by which I mean it rests with the Government of the day. I offer this assurance to gentlemen from Ireland, so far as my legal powers allow: I will see that in educational matters particularly, in which I think Ireland has a real grievance, Irish funds are not unduly encroached upon."

That speech was made in the House of Commons in May, 1906. The Attorney-General for Ireland, speaking on the same occasion, said—

> "Primary education has been neglected in a shameful manner in the past. It calls for action as soon as the House can take it. We are face to face with a great financial difficulty. If the position of primary education is to be improved and the schools are to be properly equipped, the teachers properly paid and the pupils given proper education, it will mean the expenditure of a large sum of money."

Where was that large sum of money? Was it in the Estimates this year? He submitted that it was not. They had been treated for a long time to promises only, and they had fallen as thick as snowflakes. But they were

> Like the snowfall on the river,
> A moment white, then melts for ever.

They were not going to be content with such promises, more especially when the Government showed no signs of fulfilling them. In the vital matter of education the Irish Government had followed in the old groove of the starvation of Irish schools and Irish teachers. The position of the present Government in the matter was worse than that of their predecessors, because whilst they acknowledged the evil, they had failed to supply the remedy. In conclusion he demanded for Ireland equal treatment in all matters pertaining to education with England, Scotland, and Wales. More especially he demanded equality of treatment in regard to money matters. He demanded equivalent grants to appear on the Estimates each year in full measure. He demanded equality of schools by their being raised to a higher degree of comfort than was now their condition. He demanded equality of treatment for the teachers by their being placed on the same level as their brethren in Great Britain and given a wage upon which they could live and thrive, and provided with a retiring allowance which would enable them to end their days in peace and contentment. He begged to move.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.), in seconding the Amendment, said that a devoted adherent of a very distinguished man whom the Chief Secretary much admired, was in the habit of always expressing himself after his leader's speech by remarking, "I say ditto to Mr. Burke." After the strong arguments and the great detail and the elaborate statement to which they had just listened, he felt disposed to remark "I say ditto to the hon. and learned Member for Kildare." The unsatisfactory condition of primary education made it necessary, however, for him to refer to a few further details. In the first place the way they had been treated in educational matters illustrated the force of the advice they once received when they were told, "Don't make a union with us. We should only unite with you to rob you." Since those days many changes had taken place in the system and in those who administered and controlled it. But he could call up as witnesses, Mr. Bryce, the Attorney-General for Ireland, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose speeches during the past year fully admitted the strongest case that it was necessary to make in connection with primary education. In ten years the grant to England had increased by 45 per cent., to Scotland by 51, while poor Ireland lagged behind with an increase of only 1 per cent. during the same period. Even the other night when the House held one of the longest sittings on record a Bill was pushed through granting £100,000 in connection with English education. Ireland was entitled to, and should receive, an equivalent for that and many other sums. The present Chief Secretary had expressed many good opinions in speech and essay, and he had given promise of an inclination to act up to them. But it was performance that was required in Ireland, especially in connection with primary education, and when he tried to work the machine he would find it rusty and disjointed, and the chances were that he would be as likely to break it as to mend it. Last Tuesday the right hon. Gentleman wished for unity in making representations to the Treasury in connection with marine works. To-day he need have no such wish in connection with primary education. He (Mr. Murphy) had been at meetings all over the country, and from Belfast to Tipperary, and from Castlebar to Wicklow, the representatives of the people were absolutely united in their demand. The Catholic Archbishop of Cashel, the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, and the Presbyterian ministers, were all at one as to the backward conditions of the system. What had those meetings asked for from the Government? They declared that the constitution of the Board was bad. They illustrated that by naming the last two additions, Mr. Bagwell, a Tipperary landlord, and Judge Ross, who complained only a few years ago that the business in his Court was so great that he could not possibly perform it without assistance. Other members of the Board were Judges and clergymen, and whilst a Judge might be very well trained for sitting on the bench or sometimes on somebody else, he knew little of the real wants of the people in this matter of primary education. The policy of education was not a parchment scroll, but a human document, and it could only be dictated by a body fully representative of the people, the managers, the teachers, and the commercial and working classes. At present the Board was neither responsible to, representative of, nor responsive to the people. It was in the hands of its officials. Dr. Starkie seemed its first influence. He cultivated the friendship of the Catholic managers by declaring that they took no interest in education. He sympathised with the teachers by refusing to give them an audience. He described the late Chief Secretary as a man who would go down to posterity as having clogged the wheels of education for a generation, and he was endeared to the public by the recollections of his Galway record. Around him he had a number of inspectors who were prone to fault finding, who had the fortunes of the teachers at their disposal, and who seemed over-anxious with little reason to make complaints and difficulties connected with the teaching profession. It was no exaggeration to say that these inspectors sometimes swooped down like wolves on the schools, and the poor teachers whom they met on the way got little mercy. The Commissioners thought they might get men of experience if they kept the age limit as of old, so they reduced the age for junior inspectors to thirty-five years in order to obtain nice, pliable, and inexperienced young men. It was only natural that Dr. Starkie and these gentlemen should for ever be playing tricks with education, and foisting new programmes, overcrowded and unsuitable, on the teachers. The last of those programmes, he was told, contained twenty-nine "etceteras." They looked very harmless, but it should be remembered that they gave the young inspector, who came into a schoolroom, great power of imagination in the way of making out that anything in the nature of a whim or fancy was contained in the magic "etcetera." The Commissioners and the inspectors seemed to be resolved to do all in their power to destroy the Irish language, a language in which even the late Duke of Argyle admitted there was a genuine literature. The fees for teaching the language were twenty-eight years in existence, but when a new spirit came into the people and the amount went up by leaps and bounds in consequence, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin took those fees away. Mr. Bryce promised to restore them, and when the Gaelic League submitted a reasonable scheme to him, he promised to consider it. Nevertheless, in the present Estimates those promises were not redeemed. The whole country was up in arms about the matter; the Irish Government were doing a foolish thing in trying to thwart national sentiment, and the Commissioners of Education were doing as bad in permitting junior inspectors in Mayo and other counties to obstruct the reasonable teaching of Irish. Then, again, there was the question of mathematics and Latin and French, which had been extras in the programme for thirty-six years. Last May the Commissioners told the Chief Secretary to say that these matters were outside the scope of primary education. But would it be believed that at the very moment they said so, they made them compulsory in the programme they issued about that date? Then there was the question of teachers and their average salaries. In England men got £160, in Scotland, £179, and in Ireland, £102 19s. 6d. Women in England got £109 13s., in Scotland, £90 6s., and in Ireland, £82 11s. The system of grading, staffing, and promotion had been made dependent on attendance and reports from the inspectors, which made the position of the teacher well-nigh hopeless. The teacher had to get three good reports in succession before he received any promotion, and when it was remembered that inspectors were changed frequently, and that even the same inspectors were liable to changes in their own opinions, it would be seen how difficult it was for teachers to obtain those reports. The inspectors had so many whims and fads that they could only be likened to Secretaries of State for War, the last one always differing from the methods and procedure of his predecessor. The commencing salary for a teacher was £56 for a man, and £44 for a woman, with a small capitation grant of about £7. Was that a fair inducement to foster intellect or to induce it to serve in the cause of primary education? Teachers trained in the year 1900 would have double the salary under the old rules that teachers would now have under the new. A further glaring anomaly in connection with such teachers was that if a principal and an assistant began work in 1900, the principal would now have £63 and the assistant £72. He would also remind the Chief Secretary of the way in which teachers' residences were let, and the manner in which teachers were dismissed for inefficiency. Whatever way they looked at it, the Commissioners could not possibly justify their action as to dismissals. They were either careless about efficiency before 1902, or unduly harsh since. The House had to consider not only the teachers who were victimised in this way, but the very numerous teachers who stood in constant fear of dismissal. He instanced the McCurdy case from Monaghan. Mr. McCurdy was dismissed after thirty years service, though his record was investigated and found to be fair, and the school in which he taught was declared to be no longer required. He did not get a penny compensation. In the last five years there had been 255 dismissals, the number for the previous five years being only 82. He asked the House to look at the case of assistant teachers. They received no increases of salary, whereas they should get increments and be graded. The assistant must remain in the third grade while he was an assistant, and if ever he got the chance of passing to a principalship he must begin at third grade, though his merit might entitle him to a far higher position. The question of the building of schools was of interest to all, and they were glad to see the sums voted for that purpose. But there was not a word in the Estimates about the maintenance of the schools. The Report of the Commissioners for 1905–6 contained numerous proofs about broken roofs and windows, about cleaning and heating, about earthen floors, and all such matters. Recommendations had been made time after time to the Treasury in connection with them; the only practical result up to the present time was that the Practical Rules for Teachers said that schools should be swept and dusted, white-washed and heated; but there was no information whatever as to out of whose pockets the necessary money was to come. The pensions allowed to the national teachers averaged £46 for men and £34 for women after thirty-five years' service. If they got disabled in the meantime, a male teacher got a pension of £11 15s., and a female £4 9s. 2d. The Actuarial reports supplied to the Treasury on this matter ought to have been forthcoming as promised before the debate, as it would have given the House most useful information as to how the fund stood, and the manner of putting it into proper condition. In Ireland the teachers were expected to educate the children in the duties of citizenship and public life, but they were unfitted for doing so as far as the Commissioners could make them, by the imposition of slavish and improper rules as to civil rights. Poets and politicians in this country praised the

> ". . . village Hampden, that with dauntless breast,
> The little tyrant of his fields withstood."

But when it was the case of the village schoolmaster in Ireland standing up for his fellow-men and the education of their children, he was fined and degraded by the Commissioners of Education; he was refused an audience to enable him to state his grievances, and he had no appeal from the report of an inspector, levelled against him very often without much reason. Nobody objected to the Rule 88A, which said that teachers were forbidden to engage in any occupation that would impair their usefulness as teachers. But why should the rule have a lot of unnecessary additions hampering and restricting the teacher in such a manner as to make him feel that he could not go anywhere or do anything without breaking the restrictions? It was said that there had been no local aid for Irish schools. Well, past Governments, as far as they could do so, destroyed local aid in Ireland. By the Act of 1892, result fees which amounted to £100,000, were destroyed. The Act of 1898 destroyed another £25,000 for which local bodies became contributary to primary education. And surely the 5,600 non-vested schools, built by local effort and maintained by it, were worth another £60,000? The fact was that everything about the system of administration by the Commissioners was muddled and confused, and the Treasury used that as an excuse for starving education. The right hon. Member for Dover, when Chief Secretary for Ireland, said that evening schools and extras would give teachers the opportunity of supplementing their incomes. But the Board killed the extras, and the inspectors killed the evening schools as far as they had the power. No doubt the present Chief Secretary for Ireland had little to do with the present Estimate. But the case that would be put before him would force him to conclude that a supplementary Estimate should be provided. Promises in this matter had been held out persistently for years. Let the Chief Secretary tell the House what he could do and when he proposed to do it. Last Tuesday the right hon. Gentleman admitted that the development grant had contributed to almost everything except education for which it was originally intended. If money meant for education was spent in other directions, the Government were bound to supply the deficit to improve education. The recent description of education in this country by the hon. Member for the St. Rollox division of Glasgow, an ex-Chairman of the London County Council, was—

> "There is no child, however poor, who may not by dint of industry, obtain the best education the country provides."

When they went to Ireland they found that no child had any opportunity at all. They would expect to hear from the Chief Secretary, therefore, something about proposals by means of prizes and scholarships and other means to give the children of the poor a chance in Ireland. They would wait anxiously to hear what reform of the Board was about to be advanced. The questions of the maintenance and the heating of schools, of the pay, the promotion, and the pension of the teachers, and of their civil rights, had been fully and definitely put before the Irish Government by the Irish people. In this matter all Ireland's representatives were united, and they spoke for a united Ireland. Moreover, they spoke in the interests of the greatest asset of the country in the future—the children of the people. Aid grants to English education had gone on increasing by thousands of pounds, while those in aid of Irish education had remained stationary. That was a direct breach of faith in every way, and the claim was now put before the right hon. Gentleman to apply a remedy in that and other respects. The Chief Secretary would see how anxiously his words were awaited in Ireland from a telegram which he had received that day from Tipperary to the effect that 10,000 teachers were closely watching the proceedings. But it was not only the teachers but the entire public—the branches of the Gaelic League, and the public of Ireland generally, that would wait for what the Chief Secretary had to say. If the right hon. Gentleman took his courage in his hands and tackled the question in a satisfactory manner, he would be doing that which would bring as much credit to himself, and as much advantage to Ireland, as any matter that he could handle, except the great question of self-government itself, because improved primary education would cause a new light to sit in the eyes of the children of the people, and show them the way to grapple with problems that required to be dealt with for the improvement of their own future and that of their native land.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the provision for primary education in Ireland is insufficient and unsatisfactory, and that the interests of the Irish people have been and are suffering most ruinous injury from the long delay in applying a remedy.'"—(*Mr. John O'Connor.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said that his hon. friends had spoken with such great ability that there was little for him to say. However, he wished to state that this was a question in which he had always taken a deep interest. His own belief was that it was a question which could be very easily settled, because it was largely a question of money, and of the details of administration, which could be rectified. One of the first points which had been raised was the teaching of Irish. The Treasury for the purposes of economy abolished the teaching of Irish in Irish schools a year or so ago, and thereby saved some £12,000 or £13,000 a year. There was a certain amount of excitement over the matter, and speeches were made in the House in regard to it. But that was not the only matter about which the Irish Members had to complain, although some explanation ought to be given as to why the grants for teaching Irish in Irish schools were withdrawn. Was the economy of £12,000 or £13,000 worth all the trouble taken by the Department? In view of the fact that everybody in Ireland was anxious that the ancient language should be revived, and that the £12,000 or £13,000 had given a stimulus to the teaching of Irish, he was sure that if the Chief Secretary looked into it he would, acting in the spirit of his predecessor, allow those fees to be restored. Until they were restored he was sure there would be no peace on the question. Another matter to which he wished to call attention was the condition of the teachers, which was the most important part of the education difficulty in Ireland. There was no more deserving body of public servants in Ireland than the national school teachers, and none who had served their country so faithfully and so well and got so bad a return for their services They were miserably paid and received a miserable pension, while the work upon which they were engaged was exceedingly important. There was, indeed, hardly anything more important than the education of the children in the primary schools. It was not easy work, and the task was a thankless one. These men were under a considerable disadvantage in regard to State aid as compared with their brethren in Scotland and England, in which countries the State made very large contributions towards the salaries and pensions of both male and female teachers. He hoped that when the Chief Secretary went to the Treasury he would point out that there was a good precedent for increasing the pay and pensions of the Irish teachers who laboured under a great disadvantage as compared with English and Scottish teachers. Not only was the amount paid to England and Scotland very much larger than the amount paid to Ireland, but the equivalent grants had been made to England and Scotland long before they were to Ireland. For example, under the Act of 1902, something like £1,400,000 was voted to English education, whereas Ireland was given a grant of only £185,000. If the Irish grant had been fixed on the same basis of population it would have been larger. Since then the English grant had increased to something like £2,250,000, and if the Irish grant were made equivalent to the English grant they should get something over £400,000. The difficulty of the improvement of Irish schools was one of very long standing, and their present state was little short of a scandal. Some of the schools required to be rebuilt. When the case was replied to by the right hon. Member for Dover, he promised to do what he could with the Treasury. The right hon. Gentleman, however, did nothing and his successor did nothing. He respectfully urged upon the present Chief Secretary that whatever he did in regard to education he should see that the question of the improvement of the schools was taken into consideration. It was nothing short of a scandal that a school should remain inefficient for four or five years, and that while successive Chief Secretaries said they would attend to the matter nothing whatever should be done.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) complained that it was impossible to get information from the Chief Secretary for Ireland by putting down Questions to be answered across the floor of the House. Of course, the Chief Secretary could not be expected to know in detail everything about Ireland, as he had been so short a time in office. Last week he (Mr. Sloan) had put down Questions as to the proceedings of the National Education Commissioners, and had been told in reply that there was no official information. He found it difficult to see where the distinction between official information and other information connected with the matter came in. The Chief Secretary should have given what information he had. It was impossible to get redressed a grievance which teachers had against the National Commissioners, because the Chief Secretary was not directly responsible for the Commissioners to the House. That Commission ought to be abolished altogether and some responsible authority set up which could be answered for by the Minister of the day. Why could not the proceedings of the Commission be reported, and why could not Members be informed of what was being carried on in that "Star Chamber?" It was closed to the public and to the House, and he believed it was closed to the Chief Secretary. Instead of the Board being the servants of the Chief Secretary, it appeared that the right hon. Gentleman was the servant of the Board. The House should not tolerate such a position. With regard to the state of the schools, it was really heart-rending to one who had visited them, as he had, to see the conditions in which the teachers were not only expected to teach but the scholars were supposed to be instructed. The insanitary, unhealthy, and disgraceful state of the schools in Ireland was a disgrace to the British Government. The question of expense was a mere bagatelle to the question of the health and life of the children in the schools. All that Ireland asked was equal treatment with England and Scotland, and he did not see why she should have to come to the House and beg for that. It was inconceivable that English or Scottish representatives would tolerate for a moment that children in their constituencies should have to carry to school the coal required if they were to have a fire at all. The condition of the schools was best shown by the reports of inspectors. The inspectors were not biassed in any way, and their reports were worth more than the speeches of Members of Parliament in regard to the necessity for reform. The Chancellor of the Exchequer promised last year that the Government would this year go into the matter of primary education in Ireland, and seriously and with the best will in the world seek to find some means to amend the unsatisfactory and inequitable relations between Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom. He trusted that the Chief Secretary's reply would be in accordance with the Chancellor of the Exchequer's promise. £250,000,000 were spent upon a war not very long ago, and if it were possible to find that money for a war, surely it was possible to find sufficient money for primary education in Ireland. The excuse that there was no money was an utter farce. There were teachers in the primary schools in Ireland who were living under a worse slavery than the Chinese in the compounds in South Africa. He knew of one assistant teacher who at one time was given £32 a year, and out of that sum had to pay the water rates, the plumber, and for the patching of the woodwork of the floor. Then the Board came down and said, "You have done this for four years and we do not require your services any longer." That teacher had now come under the County Council of Belfast, and was being paid twice the salary he received before. He demanded to know why the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland refused to receive a deputation of the teachers themselves. The action of Members of Parliament had sometimes been commented upon, but they did not hold a candle to the actions of the Commissioners, and while the Commissioners held their present power Ireland would always be the victim of the existing system, and the grievance would never be remedied. Nationalist Members imagined that the only remedy for all this was Home Rule; he believed that the remedy was equal treatment with England and Scotland. He protested against the bringing in of the cry for Home Rule on every occasion as though that were the only remedy. The whole of Ireland—north, south, east, and west—was united and was perfectly unanimous upon insisting that equal treatment should be given to Ireland as regarded education. The questions of Members in the House with regard to the proceedings of the Commissioners of National Education were deliberately evaded by that body. There were, no doubt, many honourable men on the Commission, and he had no criticism to make as to their personal character. He did believe, however, that they were in the wrong place, and it would not be a bad job to transfer them to some more congenial position, where they would be more adapted to the work they had to perform. They should give regular attendance to their duties, and let the House know what they were doing. He appealed to the Chief Secretary to make the matter one of urgency and really to move in the matter. In Ireland they were beginning to think a great deal of the right hon. Gentleman. He urged him to go to the Treasury and demand in the name of a united Ireland the necessary money. He submitted the situation to the right hon. Gentleman for serious consideration, believing that when he made his statement hon. Members would go away not disappointed, but fully satisfied. He believed that if the right hon. Gentleman gave this question his ardent support, it would mark his career in Ireland. He ought to step over the traces, and demand of the Treasury that they should give to Ireland that which all Irishmen in this House were agreed upon. By so doing he would not only assist the teachers in Ireland, but stop the influx of Irish teachers into this country.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said he had read with great interest recently in a Yorkshire paper a resolution passed by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire in connection with a Catholic school where, through the want of the stoking of the fire, the temperature had been allowed to go down at night. That resolution, he thought, was a remarkable illustration of the zeal with which temperature and sanitation, and the health of school children, were looked after in England, especially when they knew what was allowed to exist in Ireland. He put it to the right hon. Gentleman that if such care was taken of Roman Catholic children in this country, there was no reason why the children in Ireland should not get as much consideration. The hon. Member for Kildare had quoted the remarkable figures which were laid down at the time compulsory education was extended to Ireland. He, however, had always felt that the Chief Secretary of the day had in this matter very little responsibility or power. In point of fact, the Chief Secretary might in truth be called the chief slave of the Treasury. He had no power, and Irish representatives knew he had no power. The right hon. Gentleman had to go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer said "No," the Chief Secretary was powerless. What would happen in the other departments under such conditions? Would the War Office get soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and commissioned officers, if it was laid down that when they were serving in Ireland their rates of pay were to be one-third less than when they were serving in England? The same argument applied to the Navy, the Coastguard, the Excise and the Inland Revenue. Nobody supposed for one moment that the regulation laid down for Ireland in this matter would be tolerated for a moment with regard to those services. What was to be thought when there was applied to the education of Ireland the principle that the Irish people were to be kept in ignorance, and their teachers were to be illiterate, because Ireland did not contribute to the Exchequer the same proportion of certain taxes as England and Scotland? The same remark might be made of all other matters in Ireland. For instance, they were told that there was a loss on the Post Office. The way that was juggled was that Ireland was debited with the whole charge of buying up the telegraphs. But were they to be told that the telegraphic and postal services in Ireland were to be more inefficient than in England and Scotland because the amount Ireland contributed of particularly selected taxes did not come up to that of England or Scotland? The hon. Member for South Belfast had complained that in all these matters Nationalists brought in the question of Home Rule. But that was inevitable. What they asked for was the control of the national "tin." Their money was spent on "Dreadnoughts," on Ambassadors in America, Berlin, and Bulgaria, and on other things with which Ireland had no possible concern, and they were asking for nothing but their own money. Therefore he did not see how it could offend a Belfast Protestant that South of Ireland Catholics should try and get 20s. in the £ of Irish money. Let the hon. Member call it fiscal reform if he liked. What they said was, "You take £10,000,000, and you can have it; but as to the balance, let us administer it in our own way." If the hon. Gentleman would devote his great Protestant mind to that point he would see that the proposal was not so alarming as he appeared to think. It was said that in England and Scotland there were large local contributions that were not made in Ireland. In a sense that was true; in a sense it was false. But if it were true, who created the system? The national education system was not framed by Irishmen; it was framed by England, Scotland and Wales for Irishmen, and if that was so, how could it be thrown in their teeth? It was created at a time when there was no popular representation, when the Government thought fit to try and introduce a Protestant system among a set of benighted Papists in Ireland. So far as Ireland was concerned, it remained in its old condition. It was no answer to tell them that they did not contribute in the same ratio, even if it were true—which it was not. There was not a town in Ireland in which the Christian Brothers, without getting 1s. from the British Treasury, did not give free education to the children. What kept the Christian Brothers? Local contributions. What built their schools? Local contributions. He did not know what number of children were on the rolls in Great Britain and in Ireland, nor how they compared with the number going to the national schools, but he ventured to think that if in efficiency and contributions they were placed side by side, the contributions of the Christian Brothers to education in Ireland were very creditable. He was informed that there was a valuable and efficient Protestant service of a similar kind, and he had no doubt there were large Protestant contributions other than from Imperial sources. Therefore, if they looked at the contributions from England and the contributions from Ireland itself, he thought it would be found that there was a much larger contribution in the latter country than was really supposed by Englishmen. The beginning of the movement with regard to the national teachers was about the year 1880–1; the teachers were reprimanded and charged with getting up a trade union, and two or three of them were suspended. They had the audacity to attend a dinner which was given in Dublin to try and get some improvement in the position of the teachers. The argument used at that time was this: "Take an Irish village, and take your contributions on the one hand towards education, and what you do for coercion on the other. The schoolmaster and his wife get £100 a year for teaching the school. You have in the same village ten armed policemen, who are costing the country £1,000 a year as compared with the £100 that you spend on education." That made a tremendous impression upon the minds of the English people, and it was then for the first time that this gradual improvement, very slight, very slow, took place in the condition of the teachers. He confessed that he had not of recent years given the subject the attention which it deserved and he had thought, until he heard the hon. Member for Kildare, who spoke with very full information, that the improvement in the teachers' condition had been far greater than what he now gathered to be the case. In the matter of education they could not shut Ireland off. It was in the interest of England herself that the children of Ireland should have as good an education as the children of this land. They could not get it except by there being employed instruments as efficient and as well taught and trained as those who had to teach children in England or Scotland. But supposing they trained an efficient teacher in Ireland, would he remain in that country at £1 a week, if, by taking the train to Holyhead or to Glasgow, he could get £3 a week? Of course he would not. There was no business so laborious as that of the teacher. It was the most trying of all vocations to the temper. It was above all a profession which they ought to regard with tenderness. While some of the attacks on the national schools might be well-founded, yet there was a disposition on the part of officials to adopt a kind of hectoring tone towards those who were connected with the schools, instead of giving them helpful hints. There was a desire to report and to find fault. His own belief was that the intellectual pasturage in these schools was scant; what was taught in them was, as a rule, of very little value indeed. Why should teachers set out to equip themselves for the intellectually higher and nobler part of their profession, when they knew that all they would be called upon to do for the remainder of their days was to put a series of little children through some ridiculous exercises, and that probably all those children when they came to the age of fifteen or sixteen would be seen no more by them, because they would leave for England, Scotland, or America, leaving an absolute chasm between the young population and the old population? The teacher practically had no connection with the pupils after they had left school. But that, of course, was part of a much larger problem with which they had not now to deal. The hon. Member for South Belfast had referred to the National Board. His own view was that it was really useless, and that it was not a mischief. At one time he had thought that it was purely a mischievous institution, but he had rather changed that opinion, and had come to the view that it was totally useless. The right hon. Gentleman was asked to say what he would do with the National Board. Of course he would do nothing with it. These debates, which he had heard for the last twenty-five years, were forgotten in a day or two. The extraordinary thing about the National Board was that it consisted of those who took no interest in, and had never been at, the National Schools—Judges, landed gentlemen, one or two other persons, and, he believed, a Roman Catholic Bishop. As a rule, they were gentlemen who were too busy, or too ill-acquainted with the system. He would make one suggestion with regard to the National Board, if it was to be continued, namely, that the teachers should get some representation upon it, and, furthermore, that they should get some opportunity of rising to the position of National Commissioners. There should be some provision whereby these men could get promotion into that body; at all events, it would bring to the Board men of more sympathy and knowledge. His hon. friend the Member for Kildare had said truly that the Development grant had been largely drawn upon for the purpose of making up the difference between par value and the present depressed condition of land stock. Who was to be blamed? Had they not all assented to that provision in the Act? Was there a single provision in the Act, except the £5,000 grant to Trinity College, that they had not fought for? Did they not all come from their various constituencies, for piers, harbours and railways, and demand that they should get money from the Development grant? He had been asking for a pier for his constituency for fifteen years, and successive Chief Secretaries had promised it, but they had never got it. With regard to this equivalent grant, they were all *participes criminis*, and the demand now being made that a greater proportion of it should be spent on education was one which he should certainly heartily acquiesce in if he did not know that the money was already gone, and that the fund was depleted and had practically disappeared. He presumed the right hon. Gentleman would say that the position of the teachers and the condition of the schools would have his attention. Where was he to get the money from? He could not get it out of the Development Grant. Therefore it was necessary that a fresh provision should be made by the Treasury. He did not intend to say any more on that subject at present. He looked forward with interest to the larger Bill which the right hon. Gentleman intended to introduce. Now that he knew better the relations between the Treasury and the Irish Office, he could assure the right hon. Gentleman, in his new office, that the position of Irish Secretary was one in which he was rather to be pitied than attacked. It had taken them a long time to find that out. What was clear was that the Chief Secretary was the heir to a system which he could not improve without the consent of Parliament. He could not get reforms through that House, and in regard to executive reforms which were with matters of finance, he was controlled by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Therefore, with all deference and respect, he did not look upon the Chief Secretary as the driving wheel of the coach of reform. The coach, in his opinion, must be driven by the Government as a whole. Their experience in the past had been that the Chief Secretary, when an Irish debate was on, was deserted by his colleagues; they left him to manage the whole burden himself; and then when it came to applying the financial solution to any difficulty, he was told that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no money to devote to Ireland. This debate had been raised in front of the Bill which they were all expecting, and therefore was to some extent premature. But they expected from the Chief Secretary some statement in regard to the teaching of the Irish language, and the betterment and improvement of the teachers. No promise which the Chief Secretary could make would, in his opinion, provide a satisfactory remedy until that great measure was produced which would place the entire management of Ireland in the hands of the Irish people.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): I was glad to hear the eloquent defence the hon. and learned Member has made with regard to the action of previous Chief Secretaries in the application of the Development Grant. In the past I have been severely criticised by hon. Members below the gangway for applying some of that money to purposes other than education. I will not, however, introduce into a debate which has been entirely free from ordinary controversial matter, anything which will disturb the even current of our proceedings. It is unnecessary for me to discuss the past history of the education question in Ireland, or to enter into the field of debate as to at whose door lies the blame for some of those unfortunate results which are to be found in the national system of education. What we are engaged in is doing the best we can to put the case for alteration in the Irish educational system before the Government of the day, and certainly if the Chief Secretary thinks it necessary or desirable to take steps in order to improve the present system without waiting for the larger policy I can answer for those who sit on this side of the House that anything which is done by him to advance the cause of Irish education will meet with our generous and very warm support. I do not believe anything better or more really in the interests of education can be done than to improve the system of primary education in Ireland. There are two or three subjects, however intent the right hon. Gentleman may be on his larger policy, to which he may well devote his immediate attention. The suggestions that have hitherto been made indicate that nothing can be seriously done for elementary education except by some large drastic reform. A great deal has been done, but a great deal more can be done without having recourse to what may be called organic changes. That view is held by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Maynooth. There is no doubt that the condition of school buildings in Ireland is such as to call for serious consideration. Here again, as in almost every branch of proposed reform, we are faced with difficulties which are essential to the consideration and the proper treatment of the educational problem. Comparisons have been made between the salaries of teachers in Ireland and teachers in England and Scotland, and also between the school accommodation in those countries. It is impossible to consider either of these questions without having regard to the most difficult question of all, namely, the enormous multiplication of elementary schools in Ireland. In proportion to the population there is a larger number than in England and Scotland, and the cost of providing proper teaching, and of building and maintaining proper schools, is a serious factor which any Irish executive must carefully consider before committing themselves to increased expenditure. It is idle to expect good educational results when we give children education in buildings which in any degree merit the description given by hon. Members below the gangway, and obviously there is a state of things which call for immediate solution. With regard to improvements in buildings, we have been much criticised in the past, and I listened with sympathy to the attacks on the Treasury, although I have no doubt the Treasury will be able to hold its own. I did something while at the Irish Office to try and improve the condition of things. I did something to increase the amount of money available for these schools, and I also arrived at an agreement as to the class of schools that ought to be built.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the agreement had not been made yet.

MR. WALTER LONG: I think I am entitled to say that I did the best I could, and I thought I had left the matter in a satisfactory position. I thought all practical differences had been removed.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I think it is settled now.

MR. WALTER LONG: Then the credit belongs to the right hon. Gentleman, although I think he will admit that his predecessor in office did make serious attempts to remove the obstacles which tended to delay expenditure in this direction. With regard to the position of the teachers as compared with the teachers in England and Scotland, we must bear in mind the demands which are made on the various teachers and the work they have to do. I agree that the teachers' life is hard, and that their payment ought to be as liberal as possible; but, on the other hand, it must be remembered that the demands on the teachers in England are much greater than upon those in Ireland; and there is another factor—the number of children in the Irish schools falls far below the average number in schools in England and Scotland. Therefore, while I do not deprecate the case made on behalf of the teachers, I think it is fair to say that comparisons cannot fairly be drawn between teachers in the various parts of the United Kingdom without having regard to the great difference in the amount of work they are called on to do. There can be no doubt, in the case of teachers in the larger schools, that there is great justification for improvement in their salaries. The cases quoted by the hon. Member for Belfast show that teachers who have done great work have been driven by the necessities of self-preservation to abandon their work in Ireland and go to another part of the United Kingdom to improve their position. That ought to be avoided, because clearly Ireland suffers by such losses. In regard to the question of the teaching of Irish, that has not been very fairly raised. It has been discussed as if it were a question of teaching Irish, and not as a question of whether the teaching of Irish should be an extra subject. That is the real point. The claim has been put forward that Ireland should be treated similarly to England and Scotland. In regard to this particular question of the payment of fees for Irish as an extra subject, the treatment of Ireland has been on all fours with that of England and Wales. The teaching of a particular language is not a special subject, and when the Treasury decided that that money should not be so applied, grown enormously, as it had, from the sum originally granted by the Treasury for teaching Irish as an experiment, they consented, not to reduce the money provided by the Treasury by that sum, but to leave the money to be applied to some other purpose. The National Board of Education have promoted a reform which will be of the greatest possible value, namely, by the surrender of this money hitherto paid as extra fees, and by money out of the Development Grant, to provide assistant teachers in the smaller schools. All Parties will agree that that is a very valuable reform, because it is quite obvious that it is an inestimable advantage to have assistant mistresses for children of tender years. With regard to the teaching of Irish, it is difficult to discuss it without getting on controversial ground. I have no desire to say anything against the effort that is being made to keep up the Irish language; but, after all, the defence of those who have hitherto been responsible is that we are bound to weigh in the scales the comparative advantages of different educational subjects. It seems to me, if I may say so with great respect, that one of the blots of the system is that insufficient effort is made so to frame the educational system in the elementary schools as to give the children the best possible chance of being prepared to take their place in life and make a good living for themselves. Surely, when we come to weigh the advantages of the different subjects, for which money is to be expended, it is better to do all we can to give the children that kind of education which will help them afterwards in their fight for a living than to train them in a subject which, however valuable from a patriotic point of view, cannot be of the same benefit to them. I believe that the position of the teachers in the larger schools ought to be improved, and that there ought to be much closer connection between the three branches of education than there is at present. Holding this belief I was successful in securing the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry into that subject, and I very much regret that the report of the Committee has never been presented to Parliament or made public. I do not know whether the Chief Secretary would be good enough to give the matter his own personal consideration with a view to seeing whether there are any circumstances justifying him in making the report public.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that was a very interesting fact. They had never heard of that Committee. Would the right hon. Gentleman let them know when it was appointed and who constituted it?

MR. WALTER LONG: Perhaps I had no right to use the word "appointed." I think it was referred to whilst I was Chief Secretary. It was a Committee of representatives of the Board of Intermediate Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the National Board of Education.

MR. DILLON: What is the Board of Higher Education? I never heard of it before.

MR. WALTER LONG: I mean the Department of the Board of Agriculture which deals with higher and technical education. My object was to ascertain whether there might not be some linking up of these Departments with a view to avoid overlapping, and to make the system of more general use. May I suggest that it would be of enormous advantage if it were possible to establish some system of bursaries which would provide a connecting link between the elementary and the higher grade schools? So far as I have been able to ascertain, the cost of this need not be excessive. I believe the sum of £2,000 or £3,000 would be sufficient to commence with.

MR. DILLON: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover a few years ago said £50,000.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am only endeavouring to make a very moderate demand. By all means let us have £50,000 for this purpose if we can get it. I have not the smallest objection to adhere to the original figure mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover. My object in dealing more moderately with the question is that I think we are much more likely to get a start made if our demands are of a moderate character. I believe that whatever the sum—and the bigger it is the better I shall be pleased—it would be a most valuable improvement in the system of national education, and would provide one of those steps which it is so desirable to provide in order to give Irish lads the opportunity of climbing the educational ladder. I hope I have kept my promise to abstain from saying anything of a controversial character, or anything which would in any way disturb the even current of the debate. I was not for a sufficiently long time responsible for the Irish Government to justify me in making more prolonged observations on this subject, and I think the Chief Secretary will acquit me of having said anything to embarrass him. I conclude with the expression of a warm desire that whatever may be the trend of Irish policy it will not prevent the Chief Secretary from giving immediate assistance to a cause which I can assure him will have the unanimous and hearty support of those for whom I speak.

*MR. GWYNN (Galway) said it was gratifying that on the question of education all members from Ireland were practically in agreement. He entirely agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin that they were much more likely to get £2,000 out of the Treasury than £50,000. At the same time he thought it was better to ask for the larger sum. As a matter of general principle, he would say that, at the present time, the question of education was one which appealed acutely and passionately to the Irish people, who were looking to the present Government to do something for them. They used to be told that Irish nationality was solely a question of land—merely a question of trying to get land more cheaply. The course of events had shown how little there was in that contention. There was no more vital political issue before the Irish people than the question of education. No question provoked fiercer passion. It was for this Government a question of good faith. The Irish people would find very soon whether they could or could not believe what the Liberal Government told them. When the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin was at the Irish Office they knew what to expect. He did not profess to administer Ireland according to Irish ideas, but the Irish people expected the Liberal Government to allow that the question as to what should be taught to Irish children in Irish schools was essentially one for Irishmen. That was to say, it was a proper subject for devolution, but while they were waiting for devolution, they wished that matters relating to Irish education should be administered according to Irish ideas. He associated himself with what had been said by his hon. friend the Member for North Kildare in regard to the financial injustice which had been done to Ireland in connection with education. The complaint of the hon. Member for East Kerry as to the *status* of the teachers was one which was easily and immediately remediable. Under the Code the teacher was forbidden to take part in political meetings or to hold positions in connection with local councils or boards. The result was that the teachers were influenced and deteriorated by the fact that they had to spend their whole time in association with children whose minds were less developed than their own. Apart from the fact that the teachers suffered in that way, he maintained that a public injury was done to Ireland through an educated class being cut out of the public life of the country. It was the commonest taunt brought against the Irish representatives that local affairs were managed by the local shopkeeper—some added by the priest and the shopkeeper. Was it their fault that the schoolmaster was prohibited from having any concern in the administration of his district? The provision in the Code which disabled the teachers from taking part in the management of public affairs was contrary to the spirit of Liberalism, and no Liberal Government should allow that disability to exist any longer. The present state of teachers' pensions in Ireland demanded urgent reform; and, as one who himself had been a teacher for ten years, he felt that a sound pension scheme was the condition of efficiency. The maximum pension which any teacher could arrive at now was £60 if he retired after forty years service, and if he were sixty-five years of age. If he retired after thirty-seven years service he only got £46, and so on. In fact, the system was so arranged that the Treasury utilised every possible chance of discharging the teachers with from 20 to 30 per cent. less than they were entitled to get for ordinary and proper service. Indeed, the Treasury seemed to have arranged a money-saving device of the most discreditable kind, which invariably militated against the interests of the teacher, who, on all occasions, was treated with the utmost parsimony. He would put the case of a man who became a teacher in the year 1856 and served as a teacher until 1889 in four different schools, all of which he had brought up to a high state of efficiency. His actual service to the country was thirty-three years, twenty of which were in the service of the National Board. He, unfortunately, contracted consumption, and he decided to retire. He went to the Treasury, who offered him, instead of a pension, a lump sum of £129 to be done with him, which he accepted. That unfortunate man was still alive, but having made his bargain he had no further redress. Let the House contrast with that the treatment of another service. A policeman in Ireland was allowed to retire after fifteen years service on a pension that would keep him, but the teacher had to wait for thirty-five years. In every particular the way of the policeman was made easy for him and the way of the teacher was made hard. What could they think of a Government that pampered the police and starved its school teacher? All parties in Ireland were agreed on the necessity of reform in primary education, and as an instance of the unanimity that prevailed he might point out that the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin was just as strong on the subject as Cardinal Logue. As regarded the teaching of Irish, the right hon. Member for South Dublin had said that the Nationalist claim was an illogical one, because they were asking for Ireland that which was not given to either Scotland or England. No doubt they were, but should there be similarity only when similarity made against the advantage of Ireland? The case against the teaching of Irish was sometimes based on the ground that it had no commercial value, and sometimes on the ground that it had no educational value. Educational experts like Dr. Starkie had declined to discuss the question of commercial value of teaching the Irish language. Education was not an apprenticeship, and when a man taught his boys Irish it was not that they might go out into the market and sell it, but that their minds might be developed and that they might be made efficient human instruments. He could not understand how anyone could seriously question the educational advantage of learning a difficult language which further possessed a merit and a value that in a most remarkable way lured the student to face its difficulties—it made to him a peculiar emotional appeal. Where Irish children were taught their language they exerted themselves to acquire it more than any other subject. Irish linked them up with that greater educational movement of the Gaelic League outside, which perhaps was doing as much work as the Universities, and which had become a centre not only for language-study but for general culture. In another sense the study of Irish in the schools would advantage the pupils. If they contrasted the boys and girls who had lost the language of Ireland with the Irish men and women who talked the Irish language as still a living one, the result was striking. They would find these old men and women full of the words of the ancients and anxious to recite them. They were full of the culture which went far away back to the ages when English literature did not exist, and was not even thought of. They were familiar with words which were put together thousands of years ago; they would find old sagas, perhaps in ballad or prose form, living in the lives of these men and women. There was the old inherited culture which by means of the National Board was divorced from Irish education. They of the Gaelic League were trying to get the Irish nation back to its own life, and to get back Irish education to its most characteristic and its truest inheritance from the past. They justified their claim on that ground, and it was for that reason that they asked the Treasury to believe that they would not be wasting public money. But they did not ask for pity; they demanded it as a right. They claimed administration for Ireland according to Irish ideas. They said that the Treasury had no right to pick and choose and say "this shall and this shall not" be taught to Irish children. They wished that their children should be taught what their forefathers knew, and they demanded that they should be taught Irish. The Irish people had a strong desire to revive the public teaching of the Irish language, and for that purpose they claimed to use the machinery of the public schools. It was easy for the Chief Secretary or the Treasury to say to them that they could at present use the machinery of the public schools, and that they could at present teach Irish there as an "ordinary subject." But the reply was that they had a National Board in Ireland which displayed no real interest in this subject at all. The National Board, which was not in touch with public feeling, had been forced and pushed into making this claim under pressure. The National Board said that Irish should take its place as a subject with others; but in fact they overloaded the programme with such a lot of obligatory teaching that it was impossible to teach Irish in ordinary school hours. What was more, the schoolmasters who taught Irish earned the hostility of the National Board and their inspectors. A good deal had been said about the bare walls of the national schools, but it was not easy to put up anything on those walls without breaking some regulations. In one case an announcement of the Gaelic League about scholarships was ordered by the inspector to be removed, and because the teacher objected he was reported for insubordination. They could not expect teachers to risk their professional advancement. In any case the present condition of things would not satisfy their demands even if fair play was given to the Irish teachers in regard to voluntary subjects. A public demand had arisen for the teaching of Irish, and the teachers were not qualified to give it. It was necessary to bridge the gap until a race of teachers was formed knowing Irish, so that the subject could then take its place in the normal curriculum. The Gaelic League was doing its best by establishing a college in every province to train teachers in teaching Irish, and by offering scholarships to induce native Irish speakers to become teachers. But the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had withdrawn the fees which hitherto had been given to itinerant teachers who went round and taught Irish as an extra subject in groups of five or six schools. In consequence eighty or 100 men were driven out of employment. The late Chief Secretary, Mr. Bryce, expressed sympathy and offered an equivalent, but instead of 10s. he only gave back 1s. or 2s. 6d. Under this system in the course of the year these itinerant teachers only earned £13, and that was not enough to keep them. They demanded that the fees should be restored either on a sliding scale or in their original form. A great public demand had arisen for the teaching of Irish in all national schools, and if that demand were not soon met it would create the impression that this Government were lavish in promises but very chary of performance. It would even encourage the impression that the Irish people had been deliberately misled by expressions of sympathy. He hoped the Treasury would not put the Chief Secretary into a false position in regard to the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: Although a Saturday sitting is a sore infliction, it is fair to remember that neither the Irish Members nor the Government are in any way responsible for this one, as we intended to have the discussion on Thursday. I am sure that everybody, wherever he sits, whether he is a Protestant or a Catholic, whatever the colour of his political opinions may be, will agree that the Irish Members are only doing their duty to their country in bringing before Parliament and before the "predominant partner," as he has been called, the present Motion in regard to the unsatisfactory and almost miserable plight of primary education in Ireland. Although, of course, all that I can say will be confined to primary education, I should like to say, having some small claim to be an educationist, that in my opinion it is impossible to sever higher education from lower, and that everyone who loves education will desire to see in Ireland, some day or other, some unification of authority, some welding and blending together of all kinds of education. What we call "lower education" is perhaps the most important, but in order to reach its full stature and glory it requires to be supplemented by that University education which will prepare the teachers upon whose shoulders will be cast the real burden of primary and secondary education. I have spent some time in reading the history of primary education in Ireland, and I certainly agree with what fell from the hon. Member for North Louth, that we in England ought to remember that the system of primary education in Ireland, poor as it is, is not a system which the Irish would have made for themselves. It is a system of education imposed upon them by England, and its origin was the famous letter written by Mr. Stanley, afterwards Prime Minister, dated London, 1831, in which he unfolded this scheme of education, which was not his, but which he had borrowed, without any acknowledgment, from somebody else, Sir Thomas Wyse—a policy adopted by most politicians, even those who were called statesmen, for they are, perhaps, the most light-fingered gentry to be found. The scheme superseded certain proselytising institutions in Dublin which received public grants, but were not a success, and established throughout the whole country elementary schools. They did not succeed, and Mr. Stanley, with that lordly contempt for his predecessors which is also, I think, a common attribute of most politicians, said that it was not surprising that the system failed. The determination to enforce the reading of the Scriptures without note or comment was undoubtedly taken with the best motives in the world, with a wish not to run the risk of wounding the feelings of any sect by comment contrary to their own particular teaching. It seems to have been overlooked that the principles of the Roman Catholic Church were totally at variance with these principles. Therefore those proposals he threw on one side, and in their place substituted the system which, in theory, exists in Ireland at the present moment. We still in Ireland publish rules and regulations for the use of the Commissioners for National Education year by year. Coming to these rules I rubbed my eyes when I read the first—

> "The object of the system of national education in Ireland is to afford combined literary and moral instruction, as well as separate religious instruction to all children of all persuasions as far as possible in the same school. but the main principle is that no attempt shall be made to interfere with the peculiar religious tenets of any description of Christian people."

Of course, I know that in these schools, in consequence no emblems or symbols of a denominational character can be shown during the hours of instruction. The regulation goes on further to describe that the principle of the following lesson, or lessons of similar import, should be strictly inculcated during the time of united instruction—

> "Christians should endeavour, as the Apostle Paul commands them, to live peaceably with all men, even if they are of a different religious persuasion."

There are other texts which I will not quote, because they are of too serious a character. All I would say of them is that they breathe a spirit of the Gospels which is apt to be conspicuously absent when the subject comes to be discussed on the floor of this House. I turn now from the theory of mixed education, against which I have not a word to say. It was a scheme which had a national character, which was held with great force by Roman Catholic Bishops and others, and was in the air when Mr. Stanley sat down in London and wrote his celebrated letter. At all events that scheme was then established, and we might have expected, therefore, as it had been in operation since 1834, to find all over Ireland Protestants and Catholics being educated together in mixed schools, and receiving separate religious instruction from the priests or ministers of their particular faith within the same walls. But, as a matter of fact as everyone knows, the system of education in Ireland has developed into as severe a denominational system as it is well possible to imagine. I have here the figures. Of schools composed exclusively of Roman Catholic children, there are 4,328. These educate Catholics exclusively, and have 386,000 scholars. Then there are 1,561 Protestant schools, educating 120,000 scholars. In the mixed schools under Roman Catholic teachers exclusively, there are 162,347 scholars, but of those nearly 8,000 are Protestants. In the mixed schools conducted exclusively by Protestants, there are 62,000 scholars, of whom 6,570 are Roman Catholics. Of the schools with mixed staffs there are only thirty-two in the whole of Ireland. Consequently we find that this system has developed an almost complete system of strict denominationalism. In that sense it may be against the wishes of the founders, but it may convey the national instincts of the people. I am not going to give an opinion upon that. I must say a word or two to bring before the hon. Members behind me the state of things that exists now in Ireland. In Ireland, with an estimated population of 4,399,000 there are 8,659 schools, while in Scotland, with an estimated population of 4,652,000, there are only 3,244 schools. There is thus an enormous difference in the number of schools. As to the reason for that I shall say a word or two in a moment. There are 804,000 scholars on the roll in Scotland, and 742,000 in Ireland. The average attendance in Scotland is 696,381, whereas in Ireland it is only 500,489. Therefore, you find in Ireland a necessarily very expensive system of education, owing to the large number of the schools and their comparatively small size. In Ireland, in more than half the schools, the average attendance is less than forty-five, and in more than three-quarters the average attendance is less than sixty. We have, therefore, in Ireland a great number of small schools. To some extent for that the National Board themselves, in times past, have been very largely responsible, because they did not exercise, as far as I can make out, any kind of check whatsoever upon them. Whenever anybody made an application for a school and for a school grant, it was given, and that without any consideration of the question as to how far the school was necessary or not. Consequently we not only find the Roman Catholic schools multiplied but also schools of Presbyterian and other Protestant bodies. In fact, every church which can muster twenty-five or thirty children among the worshippers comes, almost as of right, to obtain a grant from the public monies. Therefore the number of teachers has been unduly increased, and the expenses of the work of education in Ireland likewise increased. These are facts which cannot be fairly overlooked. I have no doubt myself that in order to make any fair comparison between England, Scotland, and Ireland in this matter you must compare only those parts of the three countries which are similar one to another. And if you do make that comparison the significance of these figures very largely disappears. If you compare the remote parts of Scotland, or the intensely rural parts of England, you will find a very great number of small schools, and my experience at the Education Office last year was that when the county councils, animated, no doubt, by proper motives of economy and the lessening of school rates, sought to put an end to any small school which had existed in a village for any length of time, the local opposition became of the most violent description, and almost irresistible, and I found myself, in more than one case, overruling the county council and supporting the claim of the small school, and this upon the ground, not only of old association, but of the nature of the country the children had to traverse in all sorts of weather. This applies with very full force to Ireland. That is a country of a multiplicity of small schools, and must remain so if the children are to receive proper education at all. And although I still hope that it may be found possible to reduce this number of schools and to effect a combination of schools whose scholars are of the same religious faith, I still unhesitatingly say that Ireland must remain one place in our Empire where education will always be expensive in consequence of the necessity of having a large number of schools, if education is to be put within the reach of the children. A word must be said as to the irregular attendance in Ireland, because the average attendance is very low as compared with England. I am not sorry to have agricultural Members here, because they will at once admit that sometimes it is in Ireland as it is in England, namely, that during the summer months children would be found working in the fields to even a larger extent that in England, because in Ireland compulsory powers do not exist. In urban districts there may be compulsory powers, but in the great majority of the schools in Ireland school attendance is not compulsory, and undoubtedly in the summer months you will find a very bad attendance in the Irish schools. But in the winter months you will find that the attendance has gone up to far beyond the average in England. In Ireland they have not yet got imbued with that regular school-going habit which has only become naturalised in England since the wholesale application of the compulsory law. Now in Ireland that habit does not yet prevail. It ought to be borne in mind, therefore, in considering the average attendance, that it is an average attendance throughout the whole year, and that very often throughout the winter months, when the children are not in the fields, the attendance in the Irish schools is very much higher than in any English or Scottish schools during that period, or indeed in any period. These facts ought to be borne in mind. We have in Ireland, therefore, imposed by English rule, a highly centralised system of education. You have a Board against whom I am going to say nothing. There they sit—in Dublin, I presume—and they control, as they are bound to do by the terms of their charter, the expenditure of public money on these schools. There is no local authority to contribute towards the expense. Although I will say a word or two about local contributions, there is no local authority to contribute out of the rates, and those sacred words "popular control," once often on my lips, do not reverberate through Ireland. Therefore you have a highly centralised system of education by a board which is not amenable in any sense to any responsible body so far as I can learn. Of course everybody, in some sense or another, is amenable to Parliament. I suppose the words of a Chief Secretary do count for a little, but that is the most that can be said in this matter. Therefore, with regard to the very sensible speech of the hon. Member for South Belfast, I would say to him, before he altogether disputes my right to speak, that in the matter of Irish education the patient must minister to himself, and in this respect I am afraid that Ireland will have to cure her own evils. I cannot pretend, and I do not think this House will ever pretend, to be able to pass a measure on the basis of local contributions. I cannot imagine any man, belonging to what Party he may, who will have the courage, if he have the opportunity and the power, to pass through this or the other House any measure whatsoever demanding local contributions from the people without at the same time securing something like popular control over the schools in Ireland. He could not do it. It could not be done. It would be bound to result in complete failure. If he were to succeed in passing it into law, its execution would be thwarted in a thousand ways by the feeling of the Irish people themselves. Therefore, in this great matter of securing an effective and economical administration of education in Ireland, the hon. Member and others in Ireland will have to work out the scheme some day for themselves. Now, I will say only a few words upon a particular matter. For example, there are the building grants. I have read the Reports of the Commissioners, and I have otherwise made myself acquainted with the facts. There is general agreement on all sides that the schoolhouse buildings in Ireland have got into a bad state, and that it is cruel to demand that children should attend them and that teachers should have to spend hours a day in them. Altogether they are in their present state and condition something like a disgrace and a scandal to a civilised community. I could easily detain the House, though I will not, by reading from the Reports words of condemnation, but I am quite content with the extracts given by my hon. friend the Member for Kildare in his most clear and persuasive speech. Therefore I pass away from that part of the case to see what can be done. I will not ask the House to listen to me, because I am no authority upon the financial relations between England and Ireland or the like; but at the present moment I am so anxious to get something done, to get some money spent, that I am almost willing to throw aside all principle as long as I can get cash down and the work done. From the unanimity which has characterised this debate, that seems to me to be the opinion of all of us. I do not know whether I can include my hon. friend the Financial Secretary in that category. For years past there has been a controversy between the Treasury and the National Board with regard to the money to be granted for buildings. It is the curse of Ireland that these disputes are always occurring between the Departments and the Treasury, and sometimes between the Departments themselves. I am sorry to discover since I have become Chief Secretary that I have been engaged, as I never was before, in angry controversy with myself. In this matter of building grants it has gone on, as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin said, and very truly said, for some time. I think all Chief Secretaries do their duty, and I am quite sure that all Chief Secretaries when they go to Ireland fall victims to the charms of the country, listen to its complaints, and do the best they can. Their position is not as independent as one would like it to be, but at all events they have done their best. My predecessor did his best, and I have done mine; and I am glad to say that at last we have struck a definite bargain in this matter. I do not expect hon. Members for Ireland to cheer my statement in the very least. They look on me more or less contemptuously, but at the same time eagerly, to see what I can get out of the Treasury. I quite agree they can make me in no way responsible for the result of my efforts. What the Treasury are willing to do is to place at the disposal of Ireland an entirely fresh sum of £40,000 for a named period of three years. There is not the intention of ceasing the payment at the end of three years, but it is regarded as a sum which, with other sums that may be at their disposal, is as large as can profitably and usefully be spent in a year.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): £40,000 a year?

MR. BIRRELL: Yes; that is for the building grant; and they have come to terms after a certain amount of controversy as to the space to be allowed for the buildings. Of course, that is the subject on which the controversy arose, but I think, on the whole, the Treasury have conceded very liberal terms, namely, that there should be ten feet for each child on the mean between the number of children in average attendance and the number on the rolls. That will, I think, meet the necessities of the situation.

MR. DILLON: Is that a new grant?

MR. BIRRELL: Yes, absolutely. Therefore on that point as to the building grant, although more money, of course, might fairly be granted, I do not know that more money could advantageously be spent, and I think that it is desirable that we should have an opportunity of seeing the product, the actual result of this expenditure before we commit ourselves to any more. I think to that extent we have succeeded. I know well that I have inherited the good-will of all my predecessors, and I was able to approach the Treasury supported by the previous statements they had made; and I am glad to think that at all events something has been done. The arrangement will at once be set in motion, because for years past it has been hung up in consequence of the warfare between the Departments. That has now been got rid of, and the matter can go usefully forward. So much for the building grants. Let me come now to the question, and in one sense a very difficult question it is, about the teachers. I quite agree, knowing something about the schools and the teachers' salaries in England, that the Irish teacher is paid at too low a rate. Of course, every man who has been poor knows that one of the disadvantages of poverty is that you always have to pay more and get less than the rich man; and when we are told that Irish teachers leave Ireland and come over to England because they can get better salaries, one is bound sorrowfully to remember that they are not the only professional men in Ireland who come over to this country animated by the same motive. Most of us in England have in our lives, I think, been doctored by an Irish doctor, and some of us have been cross-examined by Irish members of the Bar eminent in their profession. Therefore, wherever you find a rich country and a poor one side by side, you cannot help that there should be a difference between salaries and incomes of a purely professional character, unless they are charged upon the Consolidated Fund or are in some way official. But so far as open work, open professions are concerned, you will always find a difference between the poor country and the rich country in that respect. Therefore you must not press the claim too high. But there is no doubt that the teacher's lot in Ireland is a pretty hard one. He starts as a man with £56 a year during the first three years; then he leaps up to £63 a year and he gets that for three years; he then goes to £70 a year. He usually has to wait to get £77, the highest income of the third grade, so that it will take him fifteen years before he gets out of the third grade into the second; and the assistant teacher I think, is very seldom able to get into the second grade at all. He remains in the second grade, and for three years gets £87 a year; in the second period of three years, £97; and in the third period of three years, £107. He then gets into the first grade, and for the first three years has £117; in the second three, £127; and then if he is fortunate to live long enough, and to get into the first grade, after a period of twelve years, he may get up to £175. Ask yourselves the question, How long does it take to get from the £56 start into the first grade. Well, it takes thirty-six years.

MR. DILLON: If they get a big school.

MR. BIRRELL: Yes; if they get a big school. They never get there if they do not get a school big enough. He will not get the top salary if he does not get a big school. Men trained in training colleges have an addition, after five years, of £9, and some £10. I confess that what strikes me as being the most doleful and dreary aspect of the figures I have given are not so much the smallness of the income to start with as the poor chances of promotion. I am bound to say that speaking as a person cognisant of the ordinary aspects of human nature, this is not a scale of salary calculated to attract into the profession eager and active spirits. There I quite agree that the earliest possible effort should be made to improve that scale of salaries. Of course the difficulty hitherto has been that looking at these things from the English point of view the Treasury have always answered that you cannot make any substantial increase in these teachers' salaries until you get some sort of system of local control, and the people themselves in the localities contribute to the amount. Now, on that question of local contributions the hon. and learned Member for North Louth very properly referred to the great assistance which the Christian Brothers have rendered to the cause of education in Ireland by their wholly gratuitous efforts. They educate thousands of children without costing the United Kingdom anything whatsoever. Therefore, that is a local contribution. But it also must be borne in mind that the State grants for education in Ireland are almost all devoted to the payment of teachers. For example, salaries at present amount to £1,253,608, and there are retiring gratuities to a certain amount. So that £1,265,609 is the main cost of education in Ireland so far as school grants are concerned. Then there is the expenditure upon new buildings. I quite admit that the repairs of the buildings have been done on a poor scale; but they are paid from local sources. According to the returns by the school managers in 1905–6 there was spent upon the new buildings and additions £27,684 11s. 2d.; repairs, whitewashing, improvements, etc., £27,000; repayment of loans, £5,000; prizes or premiums to pupils, £10,000, and there was other expenditure to the extent of £20,000, making a total of £90,525 10s. 2d. Although I quite agree this is a most unsatisfactory system, the poor teacher beng actually expected to contribute to the miserable £5 or £8 per year spent upon keeping a roof over the heads of the children he instructs, still it must be borne in mind that there is that local contribution. The Treasury arrangement is not absolutely a good one. At the same time it is one which has prevailed for a very long time, and therefore has the respectability of age about it, and does appeal to what may be called the English sentiment in this matter. The managers of these schools are appointed on the spot, and the National Board simply pays the salaries of the teachers. The appointment and dismissal of the teacher does not fall within the scope or province of the National Board at all. They have no authority over the schools, which is not considered consistent with English ideas. Therefore I am afraid that although I shall continue to press the case for an increase in the pay of the teachers as strongly as I can, and although I expect to get a contribution towards that object, I am afraid it will not be on a scale which will give satisfaction to hon. Gentlemen opposite.

MR. SLOAN: Shall we have it this year?

MR. BIRRELL: The hon. Member warned me against making promises, and I have not made any yet. All I can say is that I will continue to do the best I can to push forward the case of the teacher, because I am satisfied that it is at the very foundation of any real improvement in the spread of knowledge in Ireland. Then the bursary system has been referred to. That system, I think, has been overdone in Scotland, and, efficient as it is in England, it is miserably inadequate in Ireland. It is supplemented from private sources and private funds, and the schoolboy in Ireland is not wholly destitute of the means of climbing the educational ladder from the bottom to the top. Proper provision, however, has not been made and I shall continue to press the case as well as I can upon the Treasury. With regard to the civil rights of teachers, the rules provide, among other things, that the attendance of teachers at meetings held for political purposes or the taking part in any election for Members of Parliament or Poor Law guardians except by voting is incompatible with the performance of their duties and renders them liable to the withdrawal of their salaries. All I can say is that I shall never make myself responsible for the issuing of any such rules. The only prohibition which ought to be imposed is that teachers must not be members of bodies which would put them in the position of education authorities, because they must not be the authority to judge themselves; but to debar them from taking part in the ordinary intelligent life of their community seems to me unreasonable. I have sought information on this subject, and the only plausible reason I had given to me is that the teacher, if he is a quite peaceably-disposed person like myself and called upon to go to meetings to make speeches on behalf of friends, is very often glad to be able to excuse himself on the ground that he is prevented by these rules. [Cries of "No, no!"] That is the only reason I have heard alleged in favour of the rules. It does not seem to me sufficient, and therefore any influence I possess will be used to obtain a modification of these rules. With regard to the dismissal of teachers for inefficiency, the difficulty all arises from the lack of confidence which Irish people in different parts of Ireland may have in the National Board. If people have not any confidence in the executive discontent must arise, and, of course, everybody will agree that it is of the utmost importance that a really inefficient teacher should be dismissed. It is always a disagreeable thing to dismiss a teacher, and I do not think it is ever done without extreme reluctance, and I think hon. Gentlemen from Ireland ought not to press the case more severely than they can help. I have made such researches as I can into the past records of such few teachers as have been dismissed, and I do really think that publication of the facts in these cases would not be desirable in the interests of anybody, although I quite agree that it is most desirable that the question of general discipline should be entrusted to bodies in whom the general community has confidence. I do not think any great use should be made of the fact that during the last few years there have been a few more dismissals than in the years before.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Can the right hon. Gentleman give us the percentage of dismissals?

MR. BIRRELL: I think the hon. Member who spoke earlier in the debate told us what they were. Although I promise to look into the matter I must ask hon. Members opposite to support the authorities, and until you get better authorities you must be content with those you have got, and support them in what is absolutely an essential piece of work if efficiency of education in Ireland is to be maintained even at its present standard, unsatisfactory as it is. I do not know that I have anything more to say except on the subject of teaching Irish. Everyone has been so pleasant that this is not an occasion for the expression of any very strong opinion. I do not know that anyone has disputed the entire right of the Irish people to require that provision should be made in their elementary schools for the teaching of the Irish language, and at all events the day has quite gone by when people in England or Scotland should take upon themselves to treat Ireland as if she were a naughty child—to find out first what she is doing and then go and tell her not to do it. That has been very much the fashion in the past, and I rejoice that that day has gone for ever. We can all remember what Archbishop Whately, one of the first Commissioners, did, when he struck out of all poetry books in Ireland the lines—

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!

* * * * *

If such there be, go mark him well."

Those lines were struck out because it was not thought desirable that the Irish child should read such sentiments, and I am not quite sure myself that there does not lurk within those words something of the larger policy. But what is an even more remarkable instance is the fact that down to the year 1868 in the music books in use in the Irish schools there was not a single Irish air. What would Scotland say to that? Now we have a demand made for the teaching of the Irish language in the Irish schools. The provision for the teaching of Irish was made a long time ago, and no objection was raised at the Treasury so long as nobody much wanted to learn Irish. But owing to influences which are by no means of a political nature, there has sprung up in Ireland, as similar movements have sprung up in other countries on the Continent of Europe, a desire to recall the past and to keep alive a language which, after all, must continue to express certain Irish emotions and feelings far better than any other language. Therefore we find that whilst in 1901 the Treasury was only required to produce £955 a year to meet these fees for Irish, in 1906 the demand had grown to £13,844. Then the Treasury stopped. They said, "Dear me! I thought this Irish was a sort of archæological fad, a small matter, a drop in the bucket, but now it is a national demand. The Irish people want to learn Irish, not merely one of them, but in their tens of thousands. This is a demand which must be stopped." The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin stopped it, and he was going to apply the money to a very good purpose—the provision of assistant mistresses, an excellent purpose for the application of some money; but not the best purpose to which to divert this money. Thus the position stood when my distinguished predecessor left office. I desire to say with regard to Mr. Bryce that one of his few parting injunctions to me, one of his few valedictory remarks, was, "Do your best for the Irish language," and although he was not able to obtain the terms which he desired from the Treasury he certainly would be one of the first to rejoice if the Treasury saw its way to deal generously with this subject, for Mr. Bryce, a man of immense knowledge, was also a man of great sympathy with this object of the Gaelic League, and nothing would give him greater pleasure than to hear, as I hope he very shortly will hear, that the Treasury is prepared to reconsider its decision in this matter altogether. Now the reason why the Treasury is justified in altering its position is because it has become plain that the scale of fees which Mr. Bryce apparently sanctioned, that is the 1s. and 2s. 6d. scale, has broken down. It will not do. It will not meet the demand that Irish shall be properly taught in the schools, for, among other reasons, it does not make adequate provision for the itinerant teachers who go about from school to school giving this necessary tuition. The scheme which Mr. Bryce reluctantly sanctioned, for he was as anxious as anybody that a larger and more liberal scale should be adopted, having broken down, the time has come for reconsidering the matter with a view to sanctioning a scale which will be sufficient for the purpose. I am authorised by the Treasury to say they are prepared to do so, and that they will consider any scheme for the teaching of Irish, without regard to the question whether the result will not be to restore the fees to the amount they stood at in 1906. That is to say they will not look at such a scheme with a view to cutting it down, but will consider it in conjunction with the Irish Office on its educational merits. I hope also the time will come when the ordinary normal teacher in the schools will be able to give instruction in Irish. In the majority of cases he has not been able to do so owing to want of training. We must bear in mind that we want Irish taught educationally. We want it taught as a discipline of the mind, and as an enrichment of education, so as to provide a child all through its life with an instrument which will throw open to it the literature of Ireland. In the meantime we desire that the Gaelic League should not be interfered with in the good work it is doing, and in the maintenance of its itinerant teachers, and I am very glad to be able to make this announcement to the House, which I hope will be considered satisfactory. The question is one which has not excited any opposition in the House to-day, and I do not wish to introduce any controversial tone. For my part I rejoice to think that the Irish people have exhibited this desire to reacquire the Irish tongue. From all I have heard I believe the movement is a great and permanent one, and I believe it is a movement which will do much good to the mental calibre of the Irish people. I do not for a moment suggest that the statement I have made can be wholly satisfactory to hon. Gentlemen opposite, because it leaves, I quite agree, Irish primary education in an eminently unsatisfactory condition with regard to the salaries of the teachers. As to their pensions I ought perhaps to say that the actuarial report has not yet been completed. When that is completed it will be, of course, communicated, and action will have to be taken upon it. I mention this because it is a business point which naturally excites a great deal of attention.

What that Report will be it is not for me now to say, but it will receive the closest scrutiny and the fairest attention of the Treasury, when it is laid before it. What I have said cannot be wholly satisfactory to hon. Members opposite, but I am glad to think that, at all events, during the short time I have been in office I have been able, through the kindness and generosity of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to do the little I have done. I can only assure the whole House that my interest and zeal in this question will know no abatement, and I am sanguine enough—though the last man to be sanguine—to hope that the measures we shall unfold to the House after Easter for the reform of the administration of Irish affairs will be found to contain within them the means of enabling the Irish people themselves to do that which all Irishmen agree pre-eminently needs doing, the overhauling from top to bottom of the educational system of the country.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Dover): All the speeches to which we have listened to-day, and notably that to which we have just listened, point to one conclusion, and it is that, however much we may differ from the proposals which the right hon. Gentleman has referred to, we all agree that something substantial should be done to better the condition of primary education in Ireland. I should be the last man to introduce into this debate any controversial note when there has been such unanimity expressed upon so important a subject. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that you will never be able to deal in a satisfactory manner with primary education until you have solved the problem of higher education. But however much we may differ upon this question of higher education, the obligation that we should seek to do something for primary education is all the greater. I hold also that primary education in Ireland must be denominational in its character. I am equally certain that you cannot make elementary education compulsory in some parts of Ireland, and you cannot put the Irish denominational system of education under what is called popular local control. That being so, we arrive at the explanation of the difficult position which Chief Secretaries invariably find themselves in. They know that money is wanted, and they find that they have to ask for it in respect of Ireland upon terms which are totally different from those which exist in England and in Scotland. They have had to ask the Exchequer to defray charges which in Great Britain are defrayed, not out of the Exchequer, but out of the local rates. That being so they were often driven in desperation to get cash down on any terms they could in order to save time. Perhaps I ought to be the last person to criticise my right hon. friend for having arrived at a temporary settlement of the building grants question. I dwell upon that word "temporary." I cannot blame him during the short time he has been in office for not having arrived at a permanent solution of this difficulty. I was Chief Secretary for four and a half years, and I was arguing it all the time, but I could get no solution. One of the reasons given was that there was always a grave objection to these temporary schemes. If you give a grant for a permanent purpose, and lay down that it is going to last for a number of years, your difficulty arises again at the end of that period. When I was Chief Secretary building grants had been given to Ireland for a nominal period of seven years. As the end of that period approached, I found that the financial relations between Ireland and England in regard to primary education would have to be thrown into the melting pot. The Chief Secretary of the day in this case will find himself in the same difficulty when he has to deal with the building grant. The hon. Member for North Kildare was good enough to give me notice that in the course of this debate criticism would be made on some points of my administration. I thank the hon. Member for that notice, but having heard the debate, I find nothing in it which makes it necessary to depart from a strictly non-controversial attitude. The hon. Member said I must be held responsible for the fact that the equivalent grant was not larger. I obtained a grant of £185,000, and must stand the racket of that. The hon. Member also said I was responsible for the fact that a large part of the equivalent grant was being devoted to purposes not of new work, but of defraying losses on the flotation of land stock. That is quite true. But we were all agreed at the time that the bargains between landlords and tenants should be made in cash, and should not be subjected to the fluctuations of the Stock Exchange. I maintain that we were right, and that experience has proved us to be so. If landlords are not to pay for the depreciation of land stock some public fund has to bear it. Like the right hon. Gentleman, I took cash down, and, considering that I got £185,000 for Ireland at the same time that the Land Purchase Act was passed, I consider that was a good bargain, the terms of which made it possible for purchase to proceed. But it is not right that purchase should proceed at the expense of the Irish child or the Irish teacher, and there is nothing in the bargain which the late Government made which lays down that if purchase is to proceed the Irish child is to have an insanitary school or that the Irish teacher is to have an inadequate pension. The Chief Secretary, in considering them, will have to suffer from the fact that there is no rate aid, but there is no reason why nothing shall be done to put the schools in a more sanitary state than English schools were in the early part of the nineteenth century. Something must be done somehow, and soon, to remedy the conditions of primary education in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman said he was pressing for an amelioration of the conditions under which teachers served, but I feel that the question of building grants must be decided by itself on its merits, and must not be merged into the question of the equivalent grant or put on that grant. The Development Grant must be kept for purposes new and distinct in the country which received it. It will be fair to defray bursaries out of the equivalent grant, and to improve what is called the ladder from primary schools to the University, or to set up a better form of technical education, but it will not be fair to use it to give the child a fire to warm itself by or to give the teacher better pay. I am glad the right hon. Gentleman has obtained the building grant as altogether apart from the Development Grant. I am sorry he has only got it for three years, because at the end of that period the old pressure will begin again and the Development Grant may be diverted to building purposes. I maintain that only new educational services should be served by the equivalent grant.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he was not surprised that the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary, at the conclusion of his speech, stated that what he had said would not be satisfactory to the Nationalist Members. The only real satisfaction they had was at the frank confession that it was impossible for an English Minister to deal with this question, and that the right hon. Gentleman proposed to make it part of the measure which was to be introduced into the House after Easter. The speech of the Chief Secretary would cause great disappointment in Ireland on all except two matters. The right hon. Gentleman had met them fairly and satisfactorily in the restoration of the fees for the teaching of Irish, a subject to which he attached immense importance from the point of view of popular sentiment, and he had also been able to promise them some welcome relief in the matter of the building grant. That controversy had gone on for fifteen years, and the extraordinary and savage conditions which were described in the opening of the debate were gradually increasing their horror to the Irish people. At a meeting the other day in Belfast, it was said that the atmosphere was so fœtid that there was no wonder that spotted fever prevailed. The speeches delivered were almost blood-curdling in their nature. That awful disease had become a devastating scourge in Ireland, and had undoubtedly been increased by the horrible atmosphere, the want of sanitation, the want of ventilation, and the cold to which the children had been subjected. The right hon. Gentleman had come with a new plan which the Irish Members had asked for in vain during the last ten years or more. In the year 1902 a private Committee was appointed to inquire into the matter, and the Treasury asked them to report as rapidly as possible. That Committee sat in private, and they had never been able to see their Report until yesterday. That Report stated that such had been the accumulation of new schools to be built that it would take £100,000 to build the schools, spread over five years, and the Treasury authorised the right hon. Gentleman to offer £40,000 to make a start. Although he rejoiced that at last they had got some statement from the Department, he could not say that that statement was satisfactory, and the Irish Members must continue the campaign until the existing state of things in regard to Irish education, which was a disgrace to the country, was put right. The money was there; and it was Irish money. Irish schools ought to be kept in proper repair and maintained up to the proper standard of schools in this country. Throughout the controversy the obdurate persons had not been the Ministers of the Crown, but the permanent officials of the Treasury—men who never saw Ireland, who knew nothing about Irish education, who had been the slaves of the extraordinary system by which they in Ireland had been cursed in regard to the reconstruction and repair of Irish schools. Some little progress had been made in regard to school grants, but none had been made as to the condition of the teachers, and it was maddening to think that the Irish teachers could not get their due from the British Treasury. The right hon. Gentleman had admitted that the conditions under which the Irish teachers worked were deplorable; and that their chance of promotion was exceedingly bad. The old Treasury plea was again used that Irish education got no support out of the local rates, and that therefore it could not be expected that the salaries of the teachers would be raised. It was perfectly true that in Ireland education got no support out of the rates, but why was that? It was for two reasons. First of all, it was because this country, in pursuance of its policy of proselytising the Irish people, forced upon them a system of education which was in antagonism to their feelings and aspirations; and after having created and maintained in Ireland this strong centralised system, it was a cruel irony and injustice to turn round and say that the Irish people did not contribute out of the rates to the support of elementary education. In the second place, the reason why they did not contribute to education out of the rates was that the rates were already very high. How many famines had they had in England? For generations they in Ireland had had a famine every ten years, and the country was impoverished. The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted no later than last year that it was the earnest desire of the Government to give effect to the recommendations in the Report of the Commissioners on the Financial Relations between England and Ireland, and offered the assurance that some restitution should be made to Ireland for the injustice which had been done to that country, especially in educational matters. He therefore insisted that the Irish Members were entitled to demand from the Imperial Exchequer a special grant for education on account of the high rates imposed upon the people, and on account of their poverty. It was said that because Ireland was poor, and her teachers were badly paid, and she could not afford to subsidise education out of the rates, therefore £300,000 of the equivalent grant must be cut off. What objection could the Government have to putting on the Estimates £300,000, which would only bring Ireland up to the point of receiving her proper share of the subvention for this purpose? They not only had to do without the rates, but also their fair share of the Imperial grant. It was really deplorable. Then there was the unhappy circumstance in connection with the national school teachers in Ireland, that whereas in England and Scotland during the last ten years the tendency had been to improve the position of the teachers, in Ireland it had been exactly the reverse. The right hon. Gentleman had drawn a picture of the teachers that left the House under the impression that a teacher in Ireland would have to work thirty-six years before he could reach his top salary. That salary was not nearly so large as that of English teachers, but the great grievance under the new system was that the teachers' chances of promotion had been reduced almost to nothing. His experience had lead him to the conclusion that if good service was required the best incentive that could be given was hope of promotion, and he would rather have seen low initial salaries with hope of promotion than high initial salaries and no promotion at all. All zeal was killed when a man knew that however well he did he would be in the same position at the end as he was at the beginning. Before 1900 a quick teacher who came out of the training college, if he was a bright fellow, could in ten years get classed as a first-class teacher, and the exertions the men made to better themselves and improve their education were simply marvellous. He knew in those days young men of twenty-five to be at the top of their profession.

Under the new rules they had no chance of reaching the first grade until after thirty-six years service, and they could never reach the first grade unless they were in a school which had an average attendance of seventy. As only 10 per cent. of the schools of Ireland had that attendance, so only 10 per cent. of the men engaged in the teaching profession could reach the top. Then there was the wretched position in which the assistant teacher was placed. He was a very important man in a large school in the country, but so long as he was in the assistant grade he could not get into the best grade at all. In England the salary of an assistant teacher was £114, in Ireland it was £73, and the teacher could not get beyond it. The assistant teacher's position therefore was a wretched one as regarded the maximum salary, but it was infinitely more wretched by reason of the fact that the new system had barred him from all chances of promotion. So long as that position of things existed and no substantial improvement was made in the position of Irish teachers, it was impossible to expect anything like a good system of primary education in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had given as a reason for the discrepancies between salaries in England and in Ireland the multiplicity of small schools in Ireland. That argument was most unjust and unsound and ought never to have been used. Ireland must always be a country of small schools by reason of the fact that she was an agricultural country, three-quarters of the schools having an average attendance of between thirty-five and fifty. Therefore when the question was considered as it affected the people of Ireland, regard must be had to the fact that the schools affected are mostly those where the pupils were taught by one teacher. Would the right hon. Gentleman suggest that the man who, in a small school, taught all standards had a lighter task than one who taught one standard in a large school? The exact reverse was the fact, because he had to keep up every standard to a proper state of efficiency lest the inspector came down upon him. The low average attendance was not the fault of the teachers; they did their best to get the children into school. In two months from now there would not be a single man in the whole of East Mayo; they would be all scattered up and down Great Britain earning their living in the fields, and the turf would have to be cut, and the work of the holding in East Mayo done by the mother and the children, while the father was perspiring in the fields of England. But did not that make the case much harder for the school master, who had often to face long absences on the part of his pupils, and then by hard work endeavour to make up for lost time? That had been sometimes used as an argument for cutting down the salaries of the teachers and reducing the grant. It was most unfair. Another point was the social position in Ireland, which bore the marks of long years of civil war and revolution. There were large districts where it was vital that the school master should be a man of high education and integrity, because he was one of the few educated men in the country. But any man among them who had any ambition and who desired to rise became an emigrant. He went to England or to America where he might better himself, declining to condemn himself to a life of toil and almost of want in a rural school. In dealing with the matter regard must be had to the particular character of the country, and the necessity of making up the long years of neglect to the teachers. He thought the right hon. Gentleman was unfair with regard to discipline. That had become one of the burning questions in Ireland. There must be some means by which a man could be dismissed who from drunkenness, idleness, or indifference was not fit for his work. But the people who were now being dismissed were men and women who had loyally served the State for twenty-five or thirty years. Was it not an awful thing for these unfortunate teachers to have the sword of Damocles hanging over their heads? If at any period they broke down through ill-health—and they had to remember the atmosphere and the condition of the schools in which the teachers had to work—they had to crawl out to the roadside to die like dogs unless they had other means available. That was a cruel thing. He wished to say just one word with reference to the speech made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin. He must say that both the right hon. Gentleman and the right hon. Member for Dover had made speeches which were certainly a pleasant contrast to the general tone of

Irish debates. They had put the case of the necessity for doing something generous for Irish education nearly as strongly as Nationalists could put it themselves. One thing the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had said had surprised them very much. It seemed characteristic of the way in which the business of Ireland was carried on. The right hon. Gentleman had said that when he was in office about two years ago he appointed a Committee of three Departments to inquire into the reorganisation and linking-up of Irish education. He did not seem to remember what the Departments were. He spoke of the Board of Higher Education in Ireland, and it turned out afterwards to be the Board of Agriculture, which he did not admit to be a proper Board of Education at all. The right hon. Gentleman said, at all events, that he had appointed a representative Committee. None of them, however, had heard of it, and the House had never heard of it. It had been conducting its operations in secrecy. He thought it was a Committee which ought not to have been appointed without their knowing something about it. Who gave evidence before it? What inquiries did it make? He understood from the right hon. Gentleman that it had reported. He was very curious to know what Report it had made, because the question of the reorganisation and the linking-up of Irish education was an exceedingly burning question. He certainly protested—and he thought he spoke for the whole of the Irish Party—against secret Committees conducting investigations into Irish education behind the back of Parliament and without letting the public know what was going on. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover had made a speech with reference to the Irish Development Grant. He rejoiced to have heard that speech. It laid down principles in regard to the equivalent grant for Irish education which he most heartily endorsed, and he trusted and hoped the Treasury would adopt them. The right hon. Gentleman was perfectly right when he said—it was a view he himself had often urged—that to shove on to the equivalent grant any charge which in the ordinary course would have been cast upon the Treasury was to rob the grant and to carry out a fraud upon Ireland. That was what had been done with regard to the building grant of the last two years. They had shoved a portion of the building grant on to the Development Grant, and by stealing the money from the equivalent grant had rendered the equivalent grant nugatory. Where they got the equivalent grant for the new service in England it ought to be devoted only to analogous service in Ireland, such, for instance, as the institution of scholarships and for the co-ordinating of Irish education. He did not want to take up any more of the time of the House, but he confessed he was disappointed with the speech of the right hon. Gentleman. He knew from the tone the right hon. Gentleman himself adopted that he was aware of their disappointment. The matter had entered upon a very serious phase. It was not often that any subject could be started in Ireland which would collect upon the same platform absolutely every section of society. For six months there had been, he might almost say, raging in Ireland—at all events, there had been going on an agitation on this question, and the limit of human patience in that country had been reached. The agitation had been going on in every part of Ireland, from Belfast to Cork and from Galway to Dublin, and on the platforms there had gathered Protestant Bishops and clergy and Roman Catholic Bishops and priests, Unionists and Orangemen, Gaelic Leaguers and Nationalists. He had attended at several of these gatherings, and he had never seen such meetings. The demand was universal that an end should be put to the scandalous system by which the intellect of the Irish children was cramped and the health of the Irish people destroyed, and that they should be put in a position to use their own resources. They were not asking for English money. They simply asked to be placed in a position to use their own resources for the education and elevation of their own children without having to come to the House of Commons to beg for leave to do so. The movement, he believed, would not be allayed by the speech the right hon. Gentleman had seen his way to make that day. If they should be so fortunate as to pass the Bill which was to be introduced after Easter, he hoped it would have the effect of transferring the whole of the question from London to be settled in Ireland itself. That would lift the burden of it from the Chief Secretary's shoulders and from the shoulders of the Treasury; but if that should not be the case he begged most respectfully to warn the right hon. Gentleman that the present agitation would go on in Ireland, and they would look forward confidently to a period in the near future when the Chief Secretary would be able to give them a very different answer.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he did not think the debate ought to come to an end without some Member of the Irish Unionist Party saying, as he did, that they had no quarrel with the words of the Amendment of the hon. Member for Kildare. He had a strong case to put before the House, and he thought the Chief Secretary had shown in his reply that he felt it to be a strong case. There was no one more qualified than the hon. Member for Kildare, whether the case was a weak or a strong one, to put it forcibly, and he only regretted that the appeal which might have been unanimous on the part of Irish Members had been mixed up by the hon. Member for Galway with what he could only call the foolish fad of teaching Irish. The hon. Member had said that he wanted to make the children of Ireland more efficient human instruments. Certainly, so far as any efficiency for the real battle of life was concerned, it was very difficult to conceive how teaching the children Irish would equip them any more efficiently to fight that battle. He had no doubt that the foundation of the Gaelic League began with a number of gentlemen who were inspired by a certain amount of Liberal enthusiasm; but he thought it fair to the House to enlighten them a little as to what that league had grown to be. One prominent member of the league, the chief organiser of it for Munster, had said that the real object of the Gaelic League was firmly to establish Ireland as a separate nation amongst the nations of Europe. He was not sure whether that would commend itself to the Chief Secretary or to the member of the Government who had lately joined the United Irish League. Then another prominent member of the Gaelic League, writing to the *Irish Independent* on 18th May, 1905, said—

> "The Irish youth who quits school without realising his duties as a rebel, is, or should be, a discredit to his school-master."

The writer added that, after half-a-dozen years schoolmastering, he felt his conscience easy in the knowledge that his salary was well-earned so far as the stirring of discontent and the stirring of rebellious feelings were concerned. That was a fair sample of what the Gaelic League and the teaching of the Irish language really meant, however innocently the matter might be brought forward in that House. Putting that aside, and coming back to the points on which they were agreed, they all felt that there was a real grievance in Ireland. The figures were absolutely conclusive as to the real claim of Ireland for a larger grant than she had hitherto had. The fact was that in the past seven years the education grant in England increased by 43 per cent.; in Scotland by 51 per cent.; and in Ireland by only 1·5 per cent. He thought those figures were almost conclusive in themselves. The salaries of teachers had already been dealt with. It might be said that living in England was more costly than in Ireland; but when they compared Ireland with Scotland they found that in the latter country the assistant teacher got £122 a year as against £73 in Ireland, and no one could contend that that was a fair rate of payment. The salaries paid in Ireland were an absolutely miserable reward for the members of a great profession—one of the greatest and most inspiring professions full of the greatest possibilities. It was said that the future of a race largely depended upon what the teachers made of the children. In Ireland they got poor encouragement for the work they were doing. Miserable pay, insanitary school-houses, and all those things of which complaint was made, were sufficient to move all Irish Members, at least all who desired to do their duty, to see what could be done to remedy existing evils in connection with education in Ireland. They cordially welcomed the statement in regard to the large grant towards remedying that portion of their claim, but he was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman had not seen his way to deal with the salaries. As for the teachers, he was amazed that such an able and devoted band of men and women were to be found ready and willing to work on at such miserable salaries. It was not fair or just to allow them to go on under such conditions, and he hoped that grievance also would be remedied before very long. With regard to the power of one manager arbitrarily to dismiss a teacher, the teachers had again and again stated that it lowered their *status* and took away from them their independence to place them at the mercy and caprice of one manager who might possibly control three or four schools, and who had the power to dismiss them without a word of explanation. He wished to join in the appeal which had been made by other hon. Members in reference to the salaries of the teachers, who were a body of men and women thoroughly deserving of some improvement in their conditions of service.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said that so long as the teachers were engaged upon such an insecure foundation and their position depended upon the favourable report of one inspector it was perfectly impossible for them to give to their work their full energies and abilities. With regard to the building grant and the promise which the right hon. Gentleman had made he would like to ask whether the £40,000 a year was to be spent upon the buildings and improvement of schoolhouses in Ireland for three years. He found that a large number of urban schools were entirely without playgrounds, and he hoped that that matter would receive attention. He had heard with the greatest pleasure the words of the Chief Secretary, because in the past they had been far too much inclined to treat the different parts of education as though they were separate and distinct. Their inter-dependence was complete, and in his view they could have no real life in any part of educational work in Ireland unless they had at the same time that culture which University influence alone could give it.

*MR. JOHN O'CONNOR, in asking leave to withdraw his Amendment, said that, with one exception, he was entirely dissatisfied with the statement of the Government with regard to the grievances he had endeavoured to lay before the House. But having regard to the terms of his Amendment the division would be no indication of the views of the majority of hon. Members who had done him the favour of listening to his observations.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907-8.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 22nd March.

Adjourned at nine minutes after Six of the Clock, till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 25th March, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received the following Communications expressing the condolence of the Portuguese Chamber of Deputies on the occasion of the destruction of the city of Kingston by an earthquake:—

"Portuguese Legation,

"March 23rd, 1907.

"Sir,

"I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Portugal enclosing a copy of the expression of condolence unanimously passed by that House on the occasion of the destruction of the city of Kingston, and also a translation of both documents into the English language.

"I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient
"humble Servant
"SOVERAL."

"The Right Hon.
James William Lowther, M.P.,
Speaker of the House of Commons,
etc., etc., etc."

Translation.

"Camara dos Deputados. Illustrious and Excellent Sir.

"The Chamber of Deputies unanimously resolved in session of the 26th of this month, that in the respective act, to transmit their condolence on account of the seismic destruction of the city of Kingston and the almost total loss of the inhabitants. Conforming to my duty, I direct to your Excellency, in conformity of the determination of this Chamber, an authentic copy of the extract of the act which contains that determination. God guard your Excellency (signed) Alfredo Pereira. To the Illustrious and Excellent President of the House of Commons of Great Britain and Ireland."

Translation.

"Authentic copy of the extracts of the session of the 26th of January, 1907, which contains the condolence transmitted to the British Nation on account of the destruction of the city of Kingston. The President permitted Snr. Pereira de Lima to discourse on an urgent matter. Snr. Pereira de Lima justified the following proposal, proposing that the Chamber should be asked to place in the act of the day our condolence directed to the British Nation for the seismic destruction of the city of Kingston, and principally for the almost total loss of the inhabitants, and this to be sent by telegram addressed to His Majesty King Edward VII. The expression of sincere sorrow manifested by the members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Portuguese Nation at the same time to be remitted to the President of the House of Commons of Great Britain, and also a copy of the part of the act referring to the co-participation of the national mourning. (signed) J. M. Pereira de Lima.

"The Minister of Public Works joins in the name of the Government in the proposal of Snr. Pereira de Lima.

"Snr. Arthur Montenegro in the name of the Progressive Party joins in the proposal of Snr. Pereira de Lima.

"Snr. Joao Pinto in the name of his political friends joins in the proposal presented to the Chamber.

"Snr. Aristides da Motta in the name of the reformed Liberal Party joins in the proposal of Snr. Pereira de Lima.

"Snr. Antonio Jose de Almeida joins in the name of the Republican deputies the same proposal.

"Snr. President in view of the manifestations of the Chamber declared the proposal of Snr. Pereira de Lima approved by acclamation.

"In conformity, Direction General of the Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies this 28th of January, 1907.

"The Councillor, Sub-Director.

"JOSE JOAQUIM MENDES LEAL."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Royal Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; West Riding Tramways Bill [Lords]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Newquay and District Water Bill [Lords]; Medway Lower Navigation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

Basingstoke Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—Read a second time, and committed.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—Orders for Committal [20th and 28th February] read and discharged.

Resolution of the House of the 18th day of March, relative to the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill, which was ordered to be communicated to the Lords, and the Message from the Lords of the 19th day of March signifying their concurrence in the said Resolution, read.

Ordered, That the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill and the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill be committed to a Select Committee of Five Members, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, to be joined with a Committee of Five Lords.

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That all Petitions in favour of or against the Bills, respectively, presented on or before the 22nd day of April, 1907, be referred to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard against the Bills, or either of them, by themselves, their counsel, agents, or witnesses be heard, and counsel be heard in support of the Bills.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Burns.*)

Marriages Provisional Order Bill; Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petition from Dygwynbach, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour :—From Barrhill; and Govan; to lie upon the Table.

TILONKO.

Petition of Tolonko (a native chief of Natal), for inquiry into his case; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' ARRANGEMENTS.

Copy presented, of correspondence between the Board of Trade and the Railway Companies' Association with regard to certain arrangements entered into by railway companies with regard to rebates on traffic, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 18th March; *Mr. Rees*]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Thirteenth Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, being for the year ending 30th September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 20th March, 1907, declaring that Walter Henry Jeakins, Clerk, Post Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Annual Series) Nos. 3750 and 3751 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) RETURNS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Local Taxation in Ireland for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POST).

Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Post Amendment (No. 15) Warrant, 1907, dated 14th February, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Yorkshire Miners' Association—Funds and Payment of Income-tax.

MR. WADSWORTH (Yorkshire, W.R., Hallamshire): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Yorkshire Miners' Association have ever been charged income-tax on the interest paid to them by their bankers on deposits previous to the present year; why income-tax is demanded on their interest this year; and whether trade unions, registered under the Trade Union Acts, and whose funds are available for benevolent benefits such as death claims, are properly liable for income-tax.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The exemption from income-tax granted to trade unions by the Trade Union (Provident Funds) Act, 1893, is confined to interest and dividends "applicable and applied solely for the purpose of provident benefits." The Yorkshire Miners' Association is accordingly chargeable on any part of its income which cannot be shown to be so applied. I understand that it is owing to an oversight that no assessment has hitherto been made upon the association.

Advertisement for Telegraphists.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether advertisements have been issued by his authority in the public press asking for applications by competent telegraphists for the position of season assistants; whether women answering the advertisement have been informed that the wages are £1 per week, and that only six months work can be promised; and whether he will seek to avoid an increase of casual female labour, especially in view of the fact that a number of qualified telegraph learners are waiting appointment throughout the country.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton*). The hon. Member is under a misapprehension as to the effect of the advertisement in question. The interests of the learners now waiting for appointment at various offices throughout the country are in no way affected by the temporary employment of certain officers who may respond to the advertisements. The object of the arrangement is simply to assist to relieve the pressure which unfortunately cannot be avoided in the summer months, it being partly due to the natural increase in the work at that season, and partly to the absence of a considerable portion of the staff on annual leave, which the Post Office endeavours to give them as far as possible during the summer months. This pressure cannot be altogether met by permanent additions to the staff without great waste of force and money during the rest of the year. It is met partly by overtime, and it is my desire as far as possible to reduce excessive overtime and consequent pressure on the staff. The employment of temporary assistants is one of several expedients designed with that object which have been under consideration.

Belfast Publicans—Amount of Licence Duty.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state the number of publicans in the city of Belfast and the amount of licence duty paid by them for the years ended 10th October, 1905, and 10th October, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on the 14th instant on the question of the sum collected.† The number of publicans could, no doubt, be easily ascertained, but I assume that this alone will not meet the object he has in view.

Closing of Houses on the Estates of Lords Longford, De Vesci and Carysfort.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the report of the clerk to the Kingstown Urban District Council stating that, owing to the action of Lords Longford and De Vesci and the Earl of Carysfort, over 120 houses have been or will be closed and a number of workers and their families evicted; whether those evictions are the result of the refusal of the said Lords to comply with sanitary requirements; whether he is aware that those houses have been taken over by Lords Longford and De Vesci and the Earl of Carysfort at the termination of a lease term from the builders or owners; and whether he will take into consideration the advisability of immediately adopting measures calculated to prevent the further depopulation and pauperisation of the Kingstown urban district.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have received the Report of the Kingstown Public Health Committee, which contains statements to the effect set forth in the Question. The Board are not entitled to intervene in the matter, which is one to be dealt with by the urban district council so far as their powers enable them to do so. Under the Public Health Acts and Housing of the Working Classes Acts the urban district council have power to compel owners of insanitary houses to put them in a habitable condition, and, if they fail to do so, a further order may be obtained directing the houses to be closed and demolished. There is no power, however, to compel the owners to erect new houses to replace those so demolished. The urban district council can provide artisans' dwellings under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and have already undertaken a large scheme for the purpose at considerable expense, having obtained special borrowing powers from Parliament. The Local Government Board understand that it is contended on behalf of the landlords referred to that the insanitary condition of the houses in question arose during the currency of long leases, when they, as head landlords, had no power to intervene, while the local sanitary authority had the power but declined to use it.

Butter Bill—Date of Second Reading.

MR. A. L. STANLEY (Cheshire, Eddisbury): To ask the Prime Minister when the Second Reading of the Butter and Margarine Bill will be taken.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I quite hope that the Bill will be taken on an early day after the Easter recess.

Equivalent Grants.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): To ask the Prime Minister what are the arrangements made with regard to the Equivalent Grant to England and Wales, Ireland, and Scotland; whether it has been the rule that the grant need not be spent on the same object; and whether the Equivalent Grant has been made on the principle of the amount of taxes paid by each part of the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) No fixed rules have been or could possibly be laid down in this matter; "equivalent grants" have in most cases been made applicable to purposes akin to those of the original grants, but there are notable exceptions. The basis on which such grants have been calculated has been the proportion of the assumed total contributions of each country to the Revenue.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 193.

National Finances—Use of Surpluses.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that, although Section 5 of the Appropriation Act, 1905, only empowered the Treasury to authorise the Board of Admiralty to defray expenditure not provided for out of surpluses effected by the saving of expenditure and not otherwise, and only empowered them to deal with appropriations in aid to the extent of sums not exceeding in all £1,688,687, the Treasury have, nevertheless, contrary to the Act, taken upon themselves to authorise the application to expenditure of £120,938 19s. 7d., which is not a saving of expenditure but an excess of receipts beyond the total sums appropriated in aid of naval expenditure by the Appropriation Act, 1905; whether a precisely similar course under precisely similar circumstances was taken by the Treasury in regard to a sum of £172,392 13s. 4d. on the Army Votes; why the Treasury thus took upon itself to exercise powers beyond those conferred upon it by law, and reported by the officer appointed to examine the public accounts on behalf of this House to be without statutory sanction; whether he will direct these two sums, amounting together to £293,331 12s. 11d., to be surrendered to the Exchequer; and whether he will undertake that in future the Treasury shall set an example to the other departments of strict obedience to the law.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I agree generally with the hon. Member in his interpretation of Section 5 of the Appropriation Act, 1905, and gave orders, as soon as the matter was brought to my personal notice, that an Amendment should be drafted so as to make it quite clear in future that the Treasury's temporary powers shall extend to making up any deficiency upon the receipts appropriated in aid of any Navy (or Army) Vote out of the surplus receipts on account of Appropriations in Aid on other Navy (or Army) Votes respectively. My decision has been communicated by the Treasury to the Public Accounts Committee, who are considering the Navy and Army Appropriation Accounts on which the Comptroller and Auditor General raised the question; and their approval will be sought forthwith to the draft Amendment of the Treasury, which has already been agreed to both by the Comptroller and Auditor General and by the authorities of the House. So far I have dealt with the steps to be taken for regularising the position for the future. As regards the current year, I may add that in the Treasury Minutes of the 22nd instant which were laid in dummy on the Table of the House on Friday, the temporary application of anticipated surpluses to meet anticipated deficits on Navy and Army Votes for 1906–7 has accordingly been dealt with exclusively on the basis of using surpluses effected by the saving of expenditure, without applying any extra receipts. I now proceed to deal with the second part of the Question, in which the hon. Member asks, with reference to the year 1905–6, that sums of £120,938 19s. 7d. in respect of the Navy and of £172,392 13s. 4d. in respect of the Army may be surrendered to the Exchequer. These sums represent the gross excess of actual over estimated receipts on certain Navy and Army Votes, respectively; and I will now indicate how, if they had been surrendered *eo nomine* to the Exchequer, the Exchequer and the Old Sinking Fund could not have received one penny more than the net surplus of £237,758 19s. 2d. on the Navy, or of £1,334,136 17s. 10d. on the Army, as shown on the face of the Appropriation Accounts for the respective services. As the hon. Member will see, this result flows from the fact that there was an unexhausted balance of authorised grants from the Exchequer out of which the deficiencies of receipts appropriated in aid of certain Navy and Army Votes could have been made good without making any use of the surpluses of receipts which have arisen on certain other Votes. All that would have happened would have been two payments of extra receipts into the Exchequer, and a precisely equal increase of the two payments out of the

Exchequer under the head of Exchequer Grants. With this general explanation, I proceed to give the figures which will make the position clear in respect first of the Navy and then of the Army. As is shown in column 4 of page 5 of the Navy Account for 1905–6, the actual gross expenditure on Navy services as a whole amounted to £34,861,442 17s. 7d. As shown in column 5, the actual receipts amounted to a total of £1,709,601 16s. 9d., but this actual total included (column 2 on page 6) an excess of actual over estimated receipts on certain Votes amounting to £120,938 19s. 7d., so that on the strictest ruling the Executive was only able to use (out of a maximum of £1,688,637, shown in column 2 on page 4) Appropriations in Aid to meet gross expenditure up to a sum of £1,588,662 17s. 2d., leaving a balance of expenditure amounting to £33,272,780 0s. 5d., chargeable against Exchequer grants. But the Exchequer grants authorised by Parliament (column 3 on page 4) were £33,389,600, therefore the saving on Exchequer grants was £116,819 19s. 7d. Add to this the excess of actual receipts on certain Votes amounting as above to £120,938,19s 7d., and the result is that the Exchequer could receive a total surrender of £237,758 19s. 2d., which is also the figure shown as the net surplus on page 5 of the Navy Account. As is shown in column 4 of page 5 of the Army Appropriation Account for 1905–6, the actual gross expenditure on Army Services as a whole amounted to £32,043,809 11s. 6d. As is shown in column 5, the actual receipts amounted to £3,564,946 9s. 4d., but this actual total included (column 2 of page 8) an excess of actual over estimated receipts on certain Votes amounting to £172,392 13s. 4d., so that, on the strictest ruling, the Executive was only able to use (out of a maximum of £3,557,725, shown in column 2 on page 4) Appropriations in Aid to meet gross expenditure up to a sum of £3,392,553 16s., leaving a balance of expenditure amounting to £28,651,255 15s. 6d. chargeable against Exchequer Grants. But the Exchequer Grants authorised by Parliament (column 3 of page 4) were £29,813,000, therefore the saving on Exchequer Grants was £1,161,744 4s. 6d. Add to this the excess of actual receipts on certain Votes, amounting as above to £172,392 13s. 4d., and the result is that the Exchequer could receive a total surrender of £1,334,136 17s. 10d., which is also the figure shown as net surplus on page 5 of the Army Account. This explanation will, I trust, satisfy the hon. Member that, apart from form, the action actually taken by the Treasury, in accordance with an unchallenged practice of many years' standing, amounts in substance to precisely the same thing, so far as the Exchequer is concerned, as payment of the excess Navy and Army receipts into the Exchequer, and the consequent issue of a correspondingly larger sum of the Exchequer under the head of authorised Exchequer Grants.

Service of Summonses by Royal Irish Constabulary.

Mr. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in Edenderry, as in many other Irish towns, it was the custom for the local Royal Irish constables to serve all summonses given to them by the town clerk for that purpose under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act of 1854 and the Acts incorporated therewith; whether, in spite of a decision in the King's Bench to the effect that the service of such summonses by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary was illegal, the Dublin Castle authorities subsequently authorised the continuance of such service on representations made to them by the Chairman of the Commissioners, Mr. M. P. O'Brien; that this authorisation by the Inspector General of Constabulary was confirmed in March, 1906, by an Order made by the magistrate of the Edenderry Petty Sessions Court and Town Court, and will he say why it was withdrawn last January; and whether steps will be taken to prevent the resources of the township being taxed for the employment of a special summons server when the Town and Sessions Courts are held at the same time, and the local police are quite willing to continue the duty they performed for so long a period.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) In January, 1906, the King's Bench Division quashed the conviction in a particular case on the ground that service of the summons by the police was not legal in that case. By a further decision of the King's Bench Division in November, 1906, it was held that the police are debarred from serving summonses in any prosecutions taken by town commissioners under the Towns Improvement Act. Having regard to this authoritative interpretation of the statute the police cannot be authorised to serve such summonses.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Robert Cooke.

MR. C. MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of Robert Cooke, son of the late David Cooke, who was evicted from his farm on the estate of Sir Samuel Hayes, near Convoy, county Donegal, over twenty years ago, and to the fact that his son, Robert Cooke, has been reinstated by the Commissioners two years ago, but without means to start farming with; and whether he will direct the Estates Commissioners to grant him a sum of money to crop and stock his farm now lying waste.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that Robert Cooke has signed an agreement for the purchase of a parcel of land comprising nineteen acres on the estate referred to, but the advance in the case has not yet been sanctioned. The Commissioners are prepared to consider any application which he may make for an advance or grant with which to stock his farm.

Apportionment of the Mountshannon Estate, County Limerick.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Mountshannon estate, in county Limerick, has been as yet apportioned to any persons; and can he say whether the names of Hanora Lonergan, of Toomaline Doon, James Conway, of Guravalla Doon, Ellen Rafferty, of Knockroe Kilteely, and Simon Ryan, of Cross Pallasgrean, whose evicted farms have been grabbed, and who applied as far back as two years since for portions of this estate, have been favourably considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners will not take possession of this estate until May next. In the meantime the scheme for the distribution of farms cannot be settled.

Sale of Sir C. Barrington's Estates.

MR. LUNDON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that Sir Charles Barrington, baronet, of Glenstal, county Limerick, a few years since sold some of his property to his tenants, and is now again in negotiation with the tenants on another portion of his estates; and will he instruct the Estates Commissioners to approach him on the sale to them of the lands of Culnahilla, so as to plant thereon his evicted tenants, Messrs. Ryan, Kelt, M'Knight, and others holding uneconomic farms on the estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that, so far, proceedings for the sale of the particular estate referred to in the Question have not been instituted before them. If the Commissioners should acquire this part of the property they will pay due regard to the applications of evicted tenants who come within the provisions of the Act as well as to the claims of the occupiers of uneconomic holdings in the neighbourhood.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Patrick O'Brien.

MR. LUNDON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the Dicken property of Basket Hill and Croughhiveera, Ballybrood, county Limerick, have arranged with their landlord for the purchase of their farms; and will the Estates Commissioners be instructed to approach the agent, Mr. Whyte, of Limerick, with the view of obtaining the evicted land of his father for Patrick O'Brien, Cloughadareen, Pallasgrean, county Limerick, which, from the time of his eviction, has always been worked as an untenanted farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have received applications from three evicted tenants for reinstatement on the estate referred to. In one case the evicted tenant has been restored, and in the other two (including the case of Patrick O'Brien) the applications have been rejected by reason of the fact that the evictions took place more than twenty-five years before the passing of the Act of 1903.

Irish School Teachers as Income Tax Collectors.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, seeing that Irish national teachers are permitted to carry on business as postmasters, shopkeepers, farmers, insurance agents, etc., if he will state why an exception has been made in the case of the teacher of school 5735, and why he has been prevented from acting as income tax collector in his district, which would not interfere with his duties as teacher; and whether, seeing that this teacher was deprived of £30 a year salary owing to the operation of the Rules of 1900, he will recommend the Board to withdraw their objection to his supplementing his income by evening work which will not interfere with his ordinary daily duties as teacher.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Under the Commissioners' rules, Irish national teachers are not permitted to engage in any occupation that would impair their usefulness as teachers; and the Commissioners, after careful consideration of the duties of a collector of income tax, decided that the holding of such a position by a teacher would impair his efficiency. The due discharge of the duties of a collector of income tax would be liable to bring him into conflict with, and might even require him to prosecute, parents of school children, with whom, as a condition of his usefulness as school teacher, he is expected to avoid occasions of discord.

Irish Labourers Cottages.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether labourers residing in urban districts in Ireland are debarred from the privileges of the Labourers Acts although working in the adjoining rural districts where there is no housing accommodation available.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) A labourer who is usually employed in a rural district, but who, owing to want of accommodation in that district, is obliged to reside in an urban district, may be provided under the Labourers Acts with a cottage in the portion of the rural district in which he works.

Inspection of Estates in County Wexford.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the county of Wexford the inspectors of the Land Commission are only now inspecting estates where agreements were lodged in 1905, with the result that a number of the tenants have to pay from 3½ to 4 per cent. per annum on the amount of the purchase money instead of 3¼; and whether he will take steps to have sales in the county Wexford completed as soon as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The fact is as stated in in the first part of the Question. Under the Lord-Lieutenant's regulations purchase agreements are dealt with by the Estates Commissioners in order of priority of lodgment, and the Commissioners use every effort to dispose of the cases as rapidly as possible.

Pay of Labourers on Donaghadee Harbour.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the Board of Works is only paying the labourers engaged on Donaghadee Harbour works 2s. 4d. per diem, while the standard wage for labourers is considerably higher.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that unskilled labourers taken on temporarily by the Board of Works at Donaghadee Harbour are paid the same wages as are given by the urban district of Donaghadee for a similar class of work. As regards the men permanently employed I have no evidence to show that they are receiving less than the standard rate of wage, but each case is being inquired into.

Removal of Bones of King Henry II., King John, and King Richard Cœur de Lion from France.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can now say whether he will approach the French Government with a view to obtaining their assent to the removal to this country from the Abbey of Fontevrault of the bones and effigies of the Plantagenet Sovereigns, viz., Henry II. and his consort, Eleanor of Guienne, Isabel of Angoulême, consort of King John, and Richard Cœur de Lion.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Government do not think that it would be desirable to make this request, as the French Government could hardly be expected to entertain it.

Assistance of British Consuls to British Traders Abroad—Counterfeit Trade Marks.

MR. TILLETT (Norwich): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the officials at British Embassies in Continental countries are directed to give practical assistance to English traders whose trade marks or trade names have been counterfeited; and whether, in the event of English traders having to take either criminal or civil proceedings against counterfeiters in Continental countries, they can rely on receiving all possible assistance from the Embassies.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) It is the duty of His Majesty's representatives abroad to render such assistance to all British traders as is proper and desirable in each individual case as it arises. With regard to the second part of the Question, I am not quite clear as to what sort of assistance is meant. It is obvious that His Majesty's representatives cannot interfere in legal proceedings pending before foreign courts unless it has appeared that a denial of justice has taken place; and that they cannot take the place of legal advisers.

Increase of Turkish Customs Duties.

MR. GOOCH (Bath): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can announce, in full, the conditions finally attached to the increase of the Turkish customs duties.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The conditions will be comprised in a Blue-book on the subject, which I hope to lay before Parliament on the conclusion of the negotiations. In the meantime I am unable to make any statement on the subject.

Pauperism.

MR. HADDOCK (Lancashire, North Lonsdale): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the number of paupers, of all kinds, receiving relief at the end of the financial year 1835.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The numbers of persons receiving relief in England and Wales at the end of the financial year 1835, or indeed at any period during that year, cannot be stated, as no Returns of a comprehensive kind were then made. Complete Returns were not obtained until many years later.

The Franchise—Procedure in Foreign Countries.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has yet been able to procure information, of a recent date, showing at what age the right to vote in legislative elections begins in the different countries of the world possessing parliamentary government.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Directions have been given to His Majesty's representatives abroad to obtain this information, but it will necessarily be some time before the particulars can be collected.

Holyhead as Port of Arrival for American Mails.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the figures lately submitted to him by the Cork Harbour Commissioners in a statement dated 27th January, 1907, as to the arrivals of American mails in English towns on 9th January, 1907, were based on the supposition that the s.s. "Oceanic" had proceeded direct to Holyhead and landed the mails there; and whether he will take into consideration the advantages which would accrue to the country generally if Holyhead were submitted for Queenstown or Plymouth as the port of call for all homeward mails.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The hon. Member seems to be under a misapprehension. The Statement prepared by the Cork Harbour Commissioners, which is dated the 28th January, 1907, was based on the supposition that the mails brought by the s.s. "Oceanic" on the occasion in question were landed at Queenstown, as in fact they were. I have no power to dictate the port of landing of mails, such as the inward American mails, not carried under contact with the Post Office.

Suggested Telephone Extension from Fermoy to Waterford.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, as the telephone trunk line has been constructed to Fermoy, he will consider the desirability of extending it from there through Lismore, Cappoquin, and Dungarvan to Waterford, in view of the commercial interests to be served, particularly of Dungarvan.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) An extension of the telephone system to Fermoy has not yet been authorised, but I hope to carry out the work if a guarantee can be obtained. As a new route from the south-west of Ireland to Waterford, through Mallow and Tipperary, has just been completed, there does not seem to be an immediate demand for another outlet from Waterford. I recently offered to extend the trunk service to Youghal, under guarantee, and if this scheme is carried out it may be more convenient to serve Dungarvan from Youghal than from Fermoy. A further guarantee would be necessary for this line. Until schemes for Youghal and Fermoy have been settled I cannot make proposals for serving the other places referred to in the Question.

County Councils and Small Holdings.

Mr. C. B. HARMSWORTH (Worcestershire, Droitwich): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, seeing that a circular has been addressed by that Department to county councils in Great Britain, calling attention to the Report of the Departmental Committee on small holdings, and inviting the attention of such county councils to the suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee to which effect might be given under the law as it stands, and that the Department has also invited replies to that circular letter, he will at the earliest possible moment publish such replies for the benefit of Members of this House.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We shall be glad to supply the House with full information on this subject. Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to consider the precise form in which it should be given.

Erection of Light at Clanchland Point.

MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Commissioners of Northern Lights have included in their estimates for the current year the cost of erecting a lighted buoy or beacon on Clanchland Point, in the Island of Arran.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The Commissioners of Northern Lights included in their estimates for 1907–8 an item for the cost of establishing a lighted buoy off the southern extremity of Hamilton Spit, but, in view of the numerous other new works of a more pressing nature, the Board of Trade are not prepared to sanction this particular proposal this year.

Wrecks of Aberdeen Trawlers—Board of Trade Inquiries.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the number of recent cases of loss and stranding of the following steam trawlers sailing out of the port of Aberdeen, without any inquiry having been held by the Board of Trade, viz., the "Star of Hope," stranded at Newburgh and two lives lost; the

"Badger," stranded and lost on the West Coast of the Orkneys in May 1906, and one life lost; the "Undaunted," stranded in January; the "Star of the Isles," also in January 1907, wrecked on the Scaurs of Cruden; on Friday last the "Irish Prince," wrecked and sunk at the Isle of Copinshay (Orkneys); and if he can state whether, in the latter case, an inquiry will be held, and why, in the other cases, no inquiry of any kind has been held in Aberdeen.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) The attention of the Board of Trade has been called to the strandings of steam trawlers referred to in the Question. Preliminary inquiry was held in each case by the Principal Officer of Customs, and the evidence taken has been carefully considered, but, having regard to the fact that Scottish fishing vessels have not hitherto been required to carry certificated skippers, the Board have not thought it necessary to order formal investigations. In the case of the "Star of Hope" I have to refer the hon. Member to the Answer given by the President of the Board of Trade, on the 12th June last,† to a Question put by the hon. Member for Kincardineshire. In the case of the "Badger" the mate, who was in charge, was drowned. In the case of the "Star of the Isles" the papers were referred to the Scottish Office, and I am informed that Thomas Scott and James Muir have been ordered to be tried by the sheriff and jury at Aberdeen. The evidence in the case of the "Irish Prince" shows that the stranding was owing to the accidental fouling of her propeller by the trawl net, and the Board of Trade are of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by holding a formal investigation.

Rebuilding of Regent Street Quadrant.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is proposed to rebuild the whole of the Quadrant, as leases fall in, upon the same design as that of the building now being erected; and, if so, whether he can undertake that further consideration shall be given to the views of lessees and others before further building becomes necessary.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The designs are intended to provide for the rebuilding of the whole of the Quadrant as one consistent scheme. As I have already informed the hon. Member by letter, the plans were most carefully considered both by the late and by the present Government before they were agreed to; and it would be too late now, when a part of the scheme has almost been carried out, to make any alteration in them, even if any such could be shown to be desirable.

Closing of the British Museum Reading Room.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the attention of the Treasury has been drawn to the announcement that the reading room of the British Museum will be closed from the middle of April till the end of October; whether he is aware that this step will inflict loss and inconvenience upon a very large number of poor students; and whether the authorities of the museum can make temporary provision for them in the King's Library or elsewhere.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I understand that since the reading room was opened to the public in 1867 it has undergone no kind of general repair or restoration. Arrangements for closing it for repairs have accordingly been made by the Trustees, who inform me that they are making temporary provision in the rooms of the library for accommodating readers engaged in special work. About 200 seats will be provided; and it is believed that with this accommodation the more pressing needs of students can be met. Every effort, will be made by the authorities to satisfy all genuine applications. Moreover, the Guildhall Library, which is one of the most extensive libraries in the Kindgom, is open to the public and will no doubt be largely used; and there are now free libraries in many parts of London where ordinary books of reference can be consulted.

Grievances of Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if arrangements have been made for the appointment of a Departmental Committee to inquire into the alleged grievances of the clerks to surveyors of taxes; and, if so, can he give any information as to the composition and personnel of that Committee.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 820.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) As I stated in a written reply to a Question by the hon. Member for East Leeds last Tuesday, the matter is engaging the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but there is not, at the present time, any intention of appointing a Committee.

Assessment of Cottage Property.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that owners of small cottage properties, who are assessed to income-tax upon the nominal rental of their cottages, or some figure approximating to such rental, are compelled to pay income-tax at that rate, notwithstanding the fact that their actual receipts, though their cottages are occupied, may after payment of local rates and repairs fall very far short of the amount upon which assessment is made; and whether in view of the need for encouraging small holders, he will consider whether the tax cannot be levied in proportion to the rent actually received in any given year.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Property of the kind referred to is by Law chargeable to income-tax on its annual value, less the statutory deductions for repairs and other outgoings allowed by Section 35 of the Finance Act, 1894. The computation of annual value is naturally based upon the gross rental of the property, but deductions are allowed for any rates or other tenants' burdens which are payable by the owner, and further allowances may be claimed in respect of any periods for which the property is unoccupied or the rent is irrecoverable.

Suggested Discontinuance of Annual Licence Fee of Irish Solicitors.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will say whether he has received a memorial from the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland asking that the annual licence fee charged for Irish solicitors be discontinued; and will he give the matter his consideration and remove this tax peculiar to this profession.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I have received and considered the memorial referred to. I am not in a position to accede to its prayer.

Reduction of Strength of Moplah Rifles.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the two battalions of Moplah Rifles have each been reduced to 200 non-commissioned officers and men by stopping recruitment, though a recruiting officer is maintained in Malabar, and by offering discharges to men who had not served their proper time; whether the Governments of Madras and India did not decide against the proposed disbandment of these battalions and, seeing that if the answer is in the affirmative, the action of the military authorities practically amounts to overriding the decision of the Government, whether he will make inquiry into the matter on account of the political objections to introducing discontent among the Moplahs, as well as on account of the merits of the case.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have not the information required for a reply to this Question, but I will refer it to the Government of India

Boycott of British Goods in India.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the boycott organised by the anti-partitionists in Bengal has resulted in a falling off of 70,000,000 of yards of cotton piece goods in the exports from Manchester, while in other Indian Provinces there has been an excess of 31,000,000 of yards in the figures for last year; and whether, since Bengal takes more than half of all the Manchester piece goods imported into India, he will publish such figures as may be available for the information of those interested in the trade.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The trade Returns of the United Kingdom give the exports of cotton piece goods from the United Kingdom to the maritime Provinces of India, in each of the last three years, as follows—

	Millions of Yards.		
	1904.	1905.	1906.
Bengal - - - - - -	1,216	1,280	1,209
Other Provinces - - - -	1,040	1,113	1,142

I am unable to say whether the decrease in the export to Bengal in 1906, as compared with the figures of 1906, was due to the cause mentioned by the hon. Member. The export to Bengal in 1905 was abnormally large. The average export to Bengal for the five years ending 1905 was 1,190 million yards. The trade Returns published by the Board of Trade and by the Government of India give full particulars regarding the cotton piece goods trade of this country with India.

Quinquennial Valuation of Indian Civil Service Family Pension Fund.

Sir SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the quinquennial valuation of the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Fund is, as in the case of the Military Fund, long overdue; when will it be completed; whether, at the last valuation, after allowing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the funds, it was found necessary to enhance the rate of contribution of the subscribers by 27½ per cent., in order to maintain the solvency of the fund; whether this was due to the cost of management, which showed a charge of £3 by the Government for every £7 paid to widows and orphans; whether Mr. Day, the actuary who was consulted, suggested that the Government should manage the fund free of expense; and, if so, will he say why his suggestion was not adopted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The last published valuation showing the assets and liabilities arising under Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations as on 30th September, 1898, was published in the *Gazette of India* on the 30th August, 1902. A new valuation as on 31st March, 1905, is now being made, and will probably be completed about the end of July. The rates of subscription were reduced, as a temporary measure, in 1896 by 27½ per cent., but in 1902 it was found necessary to revert to the full rates in order to maintain an equilibrium between prospective subscriptions and benefits. For the purposes of valuation the expenses of management are assumed to be 2½ per cent. on the receipts and 1 per cent. on the payments. In reporting on the valuation as on the 30th September 1898, Mr. Stanley Day stated that, if a lower rate of interest than 4½ per cent. were adopted for the purposes of the valuation, Government might undertake to manage the fund free of expense, but as the valuation was based on the rate of 4½ per cent., no change was made in this respect.

The late Major Mill, Bengal Artillery—Suggested Continuance of Compassionate Allowance to Daughter.

Sir EDWIN CORNWALL (Bethnal Green, N.E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if his attention has been drawn to the case of Miss Alice Eleanor Mill, who after the death of her father Major Mill, of the Bengal Artillery, in the Indian Mutiny at Fyzabad in 1857, was compelled to wander in the jungle with her mother and two young brothers, one of whom died from the exposure, without shelter for a long time; whether he is aware that the compassionate allowance granted to Mrs. Mill, in addition to a pension, was not continued to Miss Mill after the death of her mother in 1903, and that Miss Mill, whose mother and brother are now dead, receives a pension of only £40 a year; and whether he will make inquiries as to the advisability of continuing the compassionate allowance previously granted to her mother to Miss Mill, in view of the services of her father and the hardships and dangers incurred by Miss Mill after the death of her father.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Mrs. Mill was granted the pension admissible under the regulations to the widow of an officer killed in action. On her death in 1903 her daughter applied for a continuation of this pension; but, apart from the fact that the continuation of a widow's pension to her daughter would be altogether contrary to rule, the Secretary of State in Council decided that, in view of the amount of Miss Mills' income, the case was not one for the grant of a special compassionate allowance.

Sale of the O'Dwyer Estate.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will ascertain, in connection with the sale of the O'Dwyer estate in the Land Judge's Court, the annual and capital value respectively of that estate, with the name of the valuer, the price which the Land Judge has sanctioned, the normal fee and the expenses ordered to be paid to Mr. Bell, receiver for negotiating the sale, and the extra amount ordered to be paid to Mr. Bell for his action which resulted in increasing the price; whether the total is higher or lower than the average negotiating fee paid by the Estates Commissioners; and whether the Estates Commissioners will, before these payments are completed, have an apportunity of getting the estate valued and of controlling the payments.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed by the Registrar of the Land Judge's Court that the annual rental of this estate was £643, and the price at which the Land Judge sold was £11,453. This price is taken to be synonymous with the capital value. No extra amount was ordered to be paid to Mr. Bell for any action of his which may have resulted in an increase of price. His remuneration was fixed upon the principles set out in my reply to the hon. Member's Question of 27th February.† The sale in this matter was carried out under the provision of the Land Act of 1896, and the Estates Commissioners therefore had no concern with it.

Irish Evicted Tenants.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if, having regard to the statement of the hon. Member for East Mayo, in the House on the 21st February 1900, that the total number of evicted tenants in Ireland at the outside numbered then between 2,000 and 3,000 persons, the number has risen seven years later to 7,155; and if he has any official information showing that a number of those claiming are disentitled to relief.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have given already particulars to the House showing that the Estates Commissioners have held that some of the applicants are ineligible for reinstatement. As soon as the Commissioners' inquiries into the applications have been completed they propose to report generally as to the result.

Sale of Irish Estates—Buying out Existing Tenants.

MR. GINNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, when on the sale of an entire estate the owner and the tenant of a non-residential farm on it concur in the desire to sell their respective interests in that farm for the purpose of allowing it to be distributed among descendants of tenants evicted from it previous to 1878, if the Estates Commissioners have power to give effect to that purpose by buying up the entire estate, including the two interests in that farm, will he ask them to do it in the case of the Kavanagh Estate, Streete, Westmeath; and, if they lack power, will he endeavour to have it conferred upon them this session.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that, in the case of proceedings for the sale of an estate, they can in exceptional cases apply, out of the reserve fund, moneys for the purchase of an existing tenant's interest in order to effect the restoration of an evicted tenant who comes within the provisions of the Act; but they have no power to make an advance from the

---

† See (4) *Debates.*, clxx., 51.

Land Purchase Fund for the purchase of a tenant's interest. If, however, the tenant surrenders his interest to the landlord as the result of a direct agreement between themselves, the Commissioners are in a position to purchase the farm as untenanted land. The descendants of persons evicted prior to 1878 are as such ineligible to receive parcels of land under the Act of 1903. The Commissioners cannot trace the Kavanagh Estate as being the subject of proceedings before them.

Purchase of the Gregg Estate, Westmeath.

Mr. GINNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when, in a district in which land is much needed for the relief of uneconomic holdings and the prevention of emigration, a purchaser under previous purchase Acts offers untenanted land subject only to a balance of annuities payable to the Irish Land Commission, and when the only requirement is an accountant's adjustment of a single transaction between the two purchase departments of the Land Commission, will he, in the public interest, ask those departments to make the necessary adjustment and allow the transaction to go through; and will he have this done in the case of the Gregg Estate at Culvin, Streete, Westmeath.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It has been judicially decided that, having regard to the provisions of Section 9 (4) of the Purchase Act of 1891, an advance cannot be made under the Land Purchase Acts for the purchase of any holding which is already charged with an annuity in respect of an advance under the Acts.

Sale of Miss M'Cormack's Estate in Westmeath and Longford.

Mr. GINNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, does the practice set forth by the Estates Commissioners on page 9 of their last annual Report apply; if not, what is their practice when, in a district in which descendants of evicted tenants are in need of land and willing to buy it at its true value, the owner of the evicted and untenanted land attempts to get paid twice for it and to defeat the intention of Parliament by first selling a new tenant's interest to the highest bidder subject to the condition of signing a judicial agreement in order that the fee simple may then be sold to him within the zones, and that thus inspection and the jurisdiction of the Commissioners may be ousted; and, if the Commissioners have discretionary power to prevent such an abuse, will they note that Miss M'Cormack now advertises her intention to practice it with reference to her lands on the borders of Westmeath and Longford.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that their practice remains as described on page 9 of their last annual Report. The Commissioners have no information in regard to Miss M'Cormack's property, but have made a note of the fact alleged in the Question.

Sale of Sir Henry Burke's Estate, County Roscommon.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Sir Henry Burke has offered to sell to the Estates Commissioners untenanted lands in his possession at Drum, near Athlone, county Roscommon, for the purpose of enlarging the small holdings upon his estate; and, if so, whether negotiations are in progress on the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that Sir Henry Burke has recently instituted proceedings for the sale to them of untenanted lands in county Roscommon, including land in the parish of Drum. The case will be dealt with in order of priority.

Sale of Grass Farms at Athlone.

Mr. HAYDEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many grass farms in the rural district of Athlone, county Roscommon, have been offered for sale to the Estates Commissioners; who are the owners of these farms; whether the farms have been inspected; if so, the offers made to the owners; have they been accepted; and what is the price offered per statute acre.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are not in a position to give the information asked for, seeing that their records are not kept by rural districts but by counties. The Commissioners have agreed to purchase certain untenanted lands in county Roscommon, and negotiations for other purchases are proceeding. Until further progress has been made the Commissioners do not think it desirable to furnish piecemeal information as regards particular counties.

Exports of Irish Timber.

MR. GINNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture has drawn his attention to the increased quantity of timber exported from Ireland during the last four years as compared with previous years, and the practice of landlords to strip of trees estates they are about to sell; has the Government any powers to stop or check the destruction of trees or to require fresh plantation; and, if not, will he ask Parliament for such powers this session.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The new Returns of Exports and Imports issued by the Department of Agriculture do not furnish approximately complete figures for any year earlier than 1904. 115,000 tons of timber were exported from Ireland in each of the years 1904 and 1905. The figures for 1906 are not yet available. The Estates Commissioners have no power to interfere with the cutting of timber on estates about to be sold. They are aware that allegations have been made that some landlords have cut down timber in anticipation of sales. The Commissioners are also aware that tenant purchasers have disposed of their timber to a considerable extent. They have endeavoured to prevent the practice, as diminishing the security for the advance, but their existing powers do not appear to be effective. The question whether further powers should be provided is one of much difficulty, but the matter will be considered in the event of the introduction of legislation for amending the Land Acts.

Purchase of Land of Mr. R. Gradwell of Dowth Hall, Drogheda.

MR. GINNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the dates upon which the Estates Commissioners have written asking Mr. Richard Gradwell, of Dowth Hall, Drogheda, to sell to them his evicted and untenanted lands in Westmeath; the date of Mr. Gradwell's reply, if any; and have the Commissioners any prospect of acquiring those lands or any portion of them.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners communicated with Mr. Gradwell on 24th July last and again on 30th January, inquiring whether he would be prepared to sell his untenanted land. The Commissioners have not yet received any reply.

Enlargement and Improvement of Irish Non-Vested Schools.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether there are any grants available for the enlargement or structural improvement of non-vested schools in Ireland; and, if so, on what conditions are such grants given.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) There are no funds available for grants towards the enlargement or structural improvement of non-vested national schoolhouses, such aid being given to vested national schools only. A non-vested national school may, however, be vested in trustees on the application of the local parties interested in the school and with the consent of the Commissioners, and, when so vested, may participate in the grants available for vested national schools. Before approving of the vesting of a non-vested national school, the Commissioners require to be satisfied (1) that the educational requirements of the district make it desirable that the school should be recognised as a vested national school; and (2) that the house and premises are suitable, and that a plot of adequate area can be given for a playground.

Delay in Sale of Rowe's Estate.

Mr. FFRENCH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the matter of Rowe's Estate, where negotiations for a sale have been proceeding for the last three years between the tenants and the Land Judge's Court, and where inspection by the Land Commission was made over twelve months ago, nothing has since been done by either the Land Commission or the Land Judge's Court to complete the sale to the tenants; and whether he will bring this case before the attention of the Land Commission.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that the necessary documents under Section 7 of the Act of 1903 were lodged with the Estates Commissioners on 1st May last. The Commissioners have since had the estate inspected, and hope to be in a position shortly to make an offer to the Land Judge for the purchase of the property.

The Great Southern and Western Railway Company and Abbeyfeale Town Tenants' Association.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether he has received a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Town Tenants' Association of Abbeyfeale protesting against the destruction of the trade and general interests of the town by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company through the insufficiency of loading and unloading accommodation at the railway premises there, and the want of a proper staff of men; and if he can say what action he intends to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have no record of the receipt of the resolution referred to. I am not sure that the complaint indicated in the Question is one with which any Department of the Irish Government has power to deal. If, however, full particulars of the matter complained of should be furnished to the Department of Agriculture, they will consider whether any action may be possible.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Royal Marine Artillery Sergeants' Mess.

Mr. MOND (Chester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a case before the Portsmouth brewster sessions, of a pensioned warrant officer having beer delivered at his house by the canteen of the Royal Marine Artillery sergeants' mess; whether such sale was not contrary to the regulations; and whether he will take steps to protect traders in garrison towns against this form of competition.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee): My attention has been called to this case, and steps have now been taken to prevent the recurrence of a similar practice in future.

Ineffective Warships.

Mr. MURRAY MACDONALD (Falkirk Burghs). I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the aggregate tonnage of all the vessels struck off the list of effective ships of each of the Navies of Great Britain, France, Germany, and the United States respectively since the beginning of the year 1904.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The aggregate tonnage of vessels struck off the list of effective ships since 1st January, 1904, is as follows:—Great Britain, 279,635; France, 76,553; Germany, 47,219; United States, 11,159.

Naval Gun Reserve.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a fixed reserve of heavy guns in the proportion of one to every four mounted has hitherto been regarded as essential by the Admiralty; if so, whether any change has recently been made, or is in contemplation, by which the proportion of guns in reserve to guns in use has been or will be diminished; and whether, in view of the frequent assurances that have been given to the House to the effect that the reserve of warlike stores would be maintained at a fixed proportion, any intended departure from that undertaking will be announced to the House.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No reduction in the reserve of heavy guns or other warlike stores has been made, or is in contemplation.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Is there any reduction in the reserve of ammunition per gun?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No, I took the Question in that sense.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Is it not the fact that our reserve is much less in proportion than that of either Germany or France?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Expenditure on Dover Harbour.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what has been the total expenditure on Dover Harbour since the works were proposed in 1895, how much further expenditure is proposed, and whether any adverse Reports have been received in reference to the harbour.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The expenditure up to the present is about £3,059,000 out of a total estimate of £3,500,000. It is expected that the balance of the total Estimate will all be expended. No adverse Reports have been received.

Dover Harbour Moorings.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether mishaps occurred to both H.M.S. "Africa" and H.M.S. "Duke of Edinburgh" when testing moorings at Dover; whether the grounding of H.M.S. "Duke of Edinburgh" was due to the dangerous currents in the harbour; and what action the Board of Admiralty propose to take for the safety of ships using the harbour.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No mishap occurred to the "Africa." The "Duke of Edinburgh," when entering, was placed in difficulties by a vessel crossing her bows, and promptly let go an anchor to avoid mishap. Owing to the bad holding ground the anchor did not bite, and the "Duke of Edinburgh" drifted somewhat to the northward and smelt the ground. To avoid such occurrences in future, a system of signals will be instituted to prevent vessels entering and leaving the harbour together.

Defective Naval Ammunition.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Horsham Division of Sussex, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty does the addition of mercuric chloride to cordite, or other explosives, prevent a proper estimation by the recognised service tests of the purity and condition as regards safety of such cordite or other explosives; has any cordite supplied to the British Government by any firm of contractors been found to contain mercuric chloride, and is this substance authorised in cordite; whether in view of the loss of life and damage which would occur were the cordite on our ships of war to suffer spontaneous combustion in consequence of impure materials having been used, and in consequence of mercuric chloride in the cordite having misled inspectors as regards the tests, it is proposed to, or have orders been given to, specially examine all cordite supplied to His Majesty's service, with a view to such cordite being immediately destroyed if found to contain mercuric chloride; whether it is proposed to strike any firms, who may have supplied such defective ammunition, off the list of Government contractors, and to make them responsible for the loss caused to the public.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: This question is under active investigation at present, and no statement on the subject can yet be made.

H.M.S. "Dreadnought"—Cost of Armaments.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the total estimated cost of the guns of the "Dreadnought" is set down in the Navy Estimates as £113,200 and her armament as ten 12-inch guns, besides a number of small guns and torpedoes; whether he is aware that a 12-inch Mark-X gun cannot be obtained for a less sum than £9,800, so that only eleven 12-inch guns can be provided by the sum mentioned, giving a reserve of only one in ten as compared with one in four, as formerly existed; and whether he can state what steps the Admiralty propose to take to provide an adequate reserve.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The sum of £113,200 includes the cost of the armament on board the ship only. The reserve has been separately provided for and is adequate.

Mr. BELLAIRS: Is it not usual to include the reserve armament in the cost ?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON'S reply was inaudible.

Strength of the Infantry Reserve.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the present strength of the First Class Army Reserve of the Infantry of the Line, and of Section D, Reserve of the Infantry of the Line.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Haldane, Haddington): The figures on 1st March were as follows:—Sections A. and B., 62,163; Section D., 11,990; Total, 74,153.

Uniform Allowances for the Territorial Army.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in the event of the Yeomanry and the Militia being incorporated in the proposed Territorial Army, any issue of clothing will be made to the men; whether the present scales of clothing for the Militia and Yeomanry respectively will be maintained; and, if not, what scale will be substituted.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) had given notice of the following Question: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed to make any grant to the men of the Territorial Army towards the purchase of uniforms for review and walking-out purposes; if so, what is the estimated amount of such grant; and, if no such grant is to be made, will territorial units be required to provide such uniforms from private funds, or will the wearing of such uniforms be discontinued.

Mr. HALDANE: In reply to this Question and to one put on a similar subject by the right hon. and gallant Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire, the clothing of the territorial force in peace time will be dealt with by the county associations, which bodies will receive for this purpose a sum of money based on an average allowance per man on the strength, plus such additional sum as may be required to meet first outlay on increase of numbers. The grant, which will be based on the assumption that service dress is to be worn by the whole territorial force, will be rather higher in the case of mounted than of dismounted men. The question as to whether any extra grant is to be made towards the purchase of uniforms for review and walking-out purposes is still under consideration.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he considered this to be a very important question. At the present time the Militia and the Yeomanry had a large amount of their clothing, other than service dress, paid for out of public funds. Would the Militia continue to have their underclothing paid for, and would the Yeomanry and the Volunteers still have their walking-out dress, apart from their service dress, paid for out of public funds ?

Mr. HALDANE: It is clear that the public must provide these people with the dress and clothing necessary to enable them to perform their duties. The working out of the details of that principle is still under consideration.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked whether the Militia would continue to receive the whole of their clothing, or whether they would receive merely the ordinary service dress.

Mr. HALDANE: The new conditions will apply to the whole of the territorial force. Any peculiarity will have to be considered. Our obligation is to provide the new territorial force with all the clothing that is necessary to enable them to perform their duties. We shall consider the details as we come to them.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY asked whether there would be absolute uniformity of dress in regard to all the regiments of the territorial force. He understood that one regiment would not be allowed to have walking-out dress if it was denied to another.

Mr. HALDANE: We are aiming at uniformity. The principle is to organise the second Line as regards clothing and everything else on a uniform principle, just as in the case of the first Line.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Will there also be uniformity of colour?

Mr. HALDANE: That point too is under consideration.

Lord Esher.

Mr. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Lord Esher occupies any official position at the War Office, or has any authority there; and, if so, what is his position and whence is his authority derived.

Mr. HALDANE: Lord Esher occupies no official position at the War Office nor does he exercise any authority there. The misapprehension into which the hon. Member has fallen is probably founded on the fact that Lord Esher is a member of the Defence Committee, but this is a body quite distinct from the War Office.

Mr. BOWLES: Is it suggested that Lord Esher, in his capacity as a member of the Defence Committee, has a right of access to confidential War Office and Admiralty documents?

Mr. HALDANE: As a member of the Defence Committee no doubt certain confidential War Office and Admiralty documents are submitted to Lord Esher, as they are submitted to other members of the Defence Committee.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) asked whether Lord Esher had a voice in the appointments made by the War Office.

Mr. HALDANE: No, Sir.

Sir GILBERT PARKER: None whatever?

Mr. HALDANE: None.

Sir ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest) asked whether the important and unique national services which Lord Esher had rendered to the Army and the Admiralty would be adequately rewarded.

Mr. HALDANE: In my opinion Lord Esher has rendered to the Imperial services greater benefits than the public yet fully appreciate. I wish I could hold out any hope that they will be adequately rewarded.

Shoebury Foreshore Rights.

Mr. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is yet in a position to consider the drafting of improved bylaws for regulating the user of the Shoebury foreshore, with a view to safeguarding the interests both of the War Office and of the local fishermen; and whether, before any draft by-laws are put into force, he will afford an opportunity to representatives of the fishermen to submit suggestions on the draft.

Mr. HALDANE: The draft by-laws are now under consideration, and the interests of the local fishermen will be safeguarded as far as possible. The draft by-laws will be advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, and fishermen and others concerned will be afforded an opportunity to submit suggestions on the draft.

London Defences.

Mr. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if any of the sites and buildings connected with the defences of London have yet been disposed of.

Mr. HALDANE: None of the sites have as yet been disposed of.

Provost Marshal's Assistants.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Lichfield Division of Staffordshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he has considered the point as to the powers conferred on provost marshal's assistants in time of war; and if he can state what those powers will be.

Mr. HALDANE: Yes, Sir, and it is intended to draw up a code of rules for the guidance of the provost marshal in the field and his assistants in charge of prisons in the field. Such code will admit of some elasticity to meet varied condition of climate, locality, etc.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE asked if there would be regulations as to the kind of people to be appointed to this office.

MR. HALDANE: That is one of the points we are dealing with. The office is an important one, and we are endeavouring to make sure the right people are appointed.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Will the rules be laid on the Table of the House, or, if not, will any document be laid before Parliament on the subject?

MR. HALDANE: I think my best course will be to undertake to lay the rules before Parliament.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): Will they receive the sanction of Parliament before coming into operation?

MR. HALDANE: If necessity arises they can be discussed after they have been laid on the Table. They will, however, be framed with the utmost care, and I hope there will be no necessity for discussing them.

Army Statistics.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the present effective strength of the Royal Horse and Field Artillery, the Royal Garrison Artillery, and the Infantry of the Line respectively, distinguishing in each case between those on the British and Indian establishments respectively.

MR. HALDANE: The figures for warrant and non-commissioned officers and men on the 1st March were as follows:—

	British Establishment.	Indian Establishment.
Royal Horse and Field Artillery - -	19,392	10,039
Royal Garrison Artillery (including Artillery clerks) -	14,199	5,291
Infantry of the Line -	81,485	54,787

Burmese Railways.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India by whose authority and under what circumstances the official name of the Mandalay-Kunlōn Ferry line of the Burma Railways system was changed to that of the Lashio Branch; for what reasons the opening to traffic of the Mandalay-Kunlōn Ferry line beyond Lashio is delayed or is in abeyance; what steps have been taken to preserve the works and buildings already completed between Lashio and the Salwen River at or near the Kunlōn Ferry from deterioration by climatic or other causes, also to conserve the survey marks on the same section; and what was the nett total cost of the alternative survey executed in 1900, from the proposed crossing of the Myitnge River near Lashio, *via* Hsinwi and Möng La, to the Salwen River on the route of the Mandalay-Kunlōn Ferry line.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): It was decided in 1903 that the extension of the Burma Railway towards Kunlon should not be carried beyond Lashio, and the extension is consequently sometimes spoken of as the Lashio Branch. The decision to stop at Lashio was based on the view that, having regard to the unfavourable prospects of the line, any extension beyond Lashio would be an unwise and unjustifiable employment of Indian funds while so many more urgently required and more promising schemes were calling for attention. I am not aware that any work or buildings have been constructed between Lashio and the Salwen River, or what steps have been taken for conserving the survey marks. With regard to the alternative route from Lashio to the Salwen River *via* Hsinwi, a reconnaissance survey of this route was carried out in 1898–99, and the cost of the line was roughly estimated at Rs.1,35,00,000 (£900,000).

Grants to Jamaica.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the sum of £40,000 was granted to the Island of Jamaica in the year 1781; whether this was a free grant or a loan; and for what purpose the grant was made.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale; for Mr. CHURCHILL): I find it stated in "Bridges' Annals of Jamaica" that in the year 1781 the British Parliament sent a donation of £40,000 in specie to relieve distress in Jamaica resulting from a hurricane. The Under-Secretary of State asks me to say that he regrets that he failed previously to discover this record. It may interest the hon. Member also to know that it is stated in the same record that "some alleviation of the public distress was also obtained by the immediate permission of a free trade with Ireland."

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet been able to ascertain whether a free grant of £100,000 was made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom to the Colony of Jamaica in the year 1833; whether, at the same time, a loan was granted; if so, for how much; and whether the said loan has been repaid.

MR. HARCOURT: No free grant was made by Parliament to the Colony of Jamaica at the period referred to. Two loans were granted, to which the Under-Secretary referred in his Answer to a previous Question of the hon. Member, on account of loss of public and private property caused by insurrections. £244,100 was lent to private estates, and £200,000 to the Colonial Government. Only a part of each loan was repaid.

Jamaica and British War Expenditure.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies at what date the sum of £1,000,000 was voted by the Colony of Jamaica as a contribution towards the expenses of the war between the British Empire and the French Republic; and at what date that sum was paid.

MR. HARCOURT: This money was not voted. In the Under-Secretary's reply to the hon. Member's Question a fortnight ago he used the word "subscribed" and his statement rests on the authority of the Official Jamaica Handbook, which states that no less than £1,000,000 was voluntarily subscribed to help England. He apprehends that the expenditure may have been incurred for the prosecution of the War in the West Indies, the cost of which largely fell on the Colony, but he has no precise information upon this matter.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Sir West Ridgway has handed over the profits he has made from the Ceylon Pearl Fisheries to the Treasury, in order that they may be used for the benefit of the people of Ceylon.

MR. HARCOURT: I have no information on this subject.

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware it is estimated that there has been a capital loss to the Colony of nearly two millions sterling, and that the public of Ceylon and of other Colonies conversant with the case regard the transaction from start to finish as an unmitigated job?

*MR. SPEAKER: Notice should be given of any Question dealing with figures.

Imperial Preference by Shipping Regulations.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to a statement by the High Commissioner for New Zealand to the effect that it would be possible to establish a scheme of Imperial preference throughout the Empire by means of amended shipping regulations; and whether the Government will take any steps in the direction suggested.

MR. HARCOURT: The question will no doubt be discussed at the Colonial Conference.

Western Pacific—Mr. Deakin's Despatch.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table the despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of 20th April, regarding affairs in the Western Pacific, which is referred to in paragraph 9 of Mr. Deakin's despatch of 13th June, 1906, in Cd. 3288, page 38.

Mr. HARCOURT: The despatch mentioned was a secret despatch, which it is not considered desirable in the public interest to lay upon the Table of the House.

Dinuzulu.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the action brought by the Zulu chief Dinuzulu against his late secretary, at Nongomo, in Natal, on the 23rd ultimo, was adjourned *sine die* in consequence of instructions received from the Colonial Secretary; if so, will he say why such official interference with the ordinary course of justice took place; whether the plaintiff had incurred heavy expense; and what further action the Colonial Secretary proposes to take in the matter.

Mr. HARCOURT: No official information to this effect has been received. Inquiry is being made of the Governor.

Repatriation of Chinese Labourers.

Mr. FULLERTON (Cumberland, Egremont): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what practical steps are being taken by the mine owners in the Transvaal to repatriate those Chinese labourers whose indentures will expire at the end of June.

Mr. HARCOURT: No official information has been received on the subject since the new Government came into office.

The Gordon Drill in the Transvaal Mines.

Mr. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is now in a position to give any information as to the value of the new Gordon drill as a labour-saving machine in the Transvaal gold mines.

Mr. HARCOURT: No, Sir, there is no information which can be added to the Answer given to the hon. Member on the 14th of February.†

Transvaal Government and Chinese Labour.

Mr. FULLERTON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information which he can convey to the House as to the decision of the Transvaal Government on the question of the employment of Chinese labourers in that Colony.

Mr. HARCOURT: No, Sir.

Mr. FIENNES (Oxfordshire, Banbury): As Clause 50 of the Constitution does not give latitude to the Transvaal Government to regulate its own affairs as it thinks best, may I call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the speech of the Prime Minister of the Transvaal yesterday?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Gentleman is giving information, not asking a Question.

Mr. FIENNES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of that speech in which the Prime Minister of the Transvaal said, "We trust Britain, and we want Britain to trust us. Give us latitude to regulate our own affairs as we think best"?

Mr. HARCOURT: Yes; I am aware of the speech, and I have no doubt that the Secretary for the Colonies is aware of it.

Sir GILBERT PARKER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Transvaal Government decided not to announce its labour policy until the month of June?

Mr. HARCOURT: No; that is a subject on which I have no personal information.

Native Labour in the Transvaal.

Mr. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with a view to increasing the supply of Native labour for the gold mines, the Government of the Transvaal has opened negotiations with the various Governments in South Africa; and, if so, whether he can say how far the Portuguese authorities are willing to go in order to meet the wishes of the Transvaal Government by giving full facilities for recruiting in Portuguese territory.

Mr. HARCOURT: The Transvaal Government has not at present made any communications to the Secretary of State on the subject of their labour policy.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 305.

MR. FIENNES: Arising out of that Answer, in order to prepare the abnormally sensitive and humane minds of the hon. Member for South Berks and others would it not be advisable for the Under-Secretary for the Colonies to give some information to the House concerning the evils that are attendant on free recruiting in South Africa?

[No Answer was returned.]

MR. MACKARNESS: I shall repeat my Question.

Benguelea Railway.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that 2,000 Indians are detained in Natal, though they are anxious to leave for Lobito Bay to work upon the Benguelea Railway, and whether, if the Answer be in the affirmative, the Government will dispose as speedily as may be of any administrative or technical obstacles which stand between these labourers and their work.

MR. HARCOURT: The Secretary of State has been in communication with the India Office, and learns that the Government of India have now stated that they do not raise any objection to the employment of these Indians. The Governor of Natal has been informed to-day accordingly.

Fraudulent Bankruptcy in Russia and Poland.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any statement or report from His Majesty's Consuls in Russia and Poland as to systematic fraudulent bankruptcy among traders in that country.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): No such reports have been received.

Lights in the Mediterranean—Wreck of the "Imperatrix."

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): On behalf of the hon. Member for Wandsworth, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is he aware that the recent wreck of the s s. "Imperatrix," with many lives, was owing to the absence of any light on the south-west coast of Crete; that there is no lighthouse or light in the Mediterranean between Cape Matapan (Greece) and Gavdo Island, a distance of 123 nautical miles; that the south-west coast of Crete is in the midway between those two points; and that even the light on Gavdo Island, being so high as 1,149 feet above sea level, is invisible in cloudy weather, and therefore often not available; and whether he will move the proper authorities to consider the erection of a light on Kavò Krio, a headland in Crete near the wreck, which is said by competent authorities to be suitable for the purpose.

MR. RUNCIMAN: His Majesty's Government have no information as to the causes which led to the wreck of the Austrian steamship "Imperatrix," nor have they received any applications during the last thirteen years from the British shipping interested for the establishment of a light on the south-west extremity of Crete.

Hague Conference and Disarmament.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there has been any exchange of views between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States on the question of proposing to the forthcoming Hague Conference an international agreement for the reduction or arrest of armaments; and, if not, will he consider the wisdom of approaching President Roosevelt on the subject.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend is unable, at present, to make any statement with regard to the communications that have passed or may pass between the Powers in regard to this subject.

United States and Coastal Trade.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, and, if so, in what respect, the interpretation of coastal trade by the United States differs from that accepted in this country; and whether, if such a difference of interpretation exists, it would be possible for this country to adopt a similar definition of coastal trade.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The carrying trade between the United Kingdom and the various British Colonies and Possessions, as well as the carrying trade between ports of the United Kingdom, and also inter-colonial trade, has long been free from any restriction as to the nationality of vessel. The United States treat the carrying trade between their Atlantic and Pacific seaboards as coasting trade, and reserve it to national vessels, and they also reserve the trade between their oversea possessions of Porto Rico and Hawaii. The question appears to be one of policy, and it is not proposed to change the policy which we have hitherto adopted.

Canadian Tariffs.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that Canada imposes a surtax against those countries which treat Canadian products less favourably than those of any other country, she is entitled, under the most-favoured-nation clause in the treaties with Servia and Roumania, and the convention with Bulgaria, to most-favoured-nation treatment from those countries if she extends the general tariff to them; and whether, if by a special treaty Canada agrees to extend the intermediate tariff to any foreign country, she must also extend the intermediate tariff to the above countries.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Answer to both Questions is in the affirmative. To prevent misunderstanding, my right hon. friend would point out that Canada is free to adhere to these treaties or not as she pleases.

French Railway on the Yunnan Frontier.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present state of progress on the French Colonial Railway from Hanoi to Lao-kai on the Yunnan frontier, the construction of which was begun about 1902.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The line has been completed, and was opened for traffic on 1st February, 1906.

The Assuan Dam.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the Resolution come to by the Egyptian authorities on the 21st instant to proceed forthwith with the increasing of the height of the Assuan Dam by seven metres; whether he is aware that last year doubts were raised by men of scientific eminence as to whether the strains and stresses at present borne by the Assuan Dam, even at its present height, had been properly calculated; whether he has satisfied himself as to the want of foundation for these fears by inquiry of the best engineering experts; and, if not, will he consider the advisability of suggesting to the authorities in Egypt the appointment by them of a small committee of scientific men to go thoroughly into the matter, and so obviate the possibility of an accident happening which might cause disastrous loss of life and property in Egypt.

MR. RUNCIMAN: A despatch has just been received from Lord Cromer fully explaining the reasons which have led the Egyptian Government to arrive at the decision to raise the Assuan Dam. It will be presented to Parliament in due course. In the meantime, it would not be desirable that my right hon. friend should answer questions on isolated points in connection with this matter.

MR. CHEETHAM (Stalybridge): Does the Egyptian Government propose to take any steps for the preservation of ancient monuments which have already suffered serious injury?

MR. RUNCIMAN asked for notice of the Question.

Macedonian Financial Commission.

* MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, and, if so, when, His Majesty's Government will publish the Reports received from the British member of the Financial Commission in Macedonia.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Papers are now being prepared, and will be laid shortly.

Distribution of Equivalent Grant.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Prime Minister what are the arrangements made with regard to the Equivalent Grant to England and Wales, Ireland, and Scotland; whether it has been the rule that the grant need not be spent on the same object; and whether the Equivalent Grant has been made on the principle of the amount of taxes paid by each part of the United Kingdom.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E): No fixed rules have been or could possibly be laid down in this matter. "Equivalent Grants" have in most cases been made applicable to purposes akin to those of the original grants, but there are notable exceptions. The basis on which such grants have been calculated has been the proportion of the assumed total contributions of each country to the revenue.

National Finances—Alleged Improper Appropriation of Surpluses.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that, although Section 5 of the Appropriation Act, 1905, only empowered the Treasury to authorise the Board of Admiralty to defray expenditure not provided for out of surpluses effected by the saving of expenditure and not otherwise, and only empowered them to deal with appropriation in aid to the extent of sums not exceeding in all £1,688,687, the Treasury have, nevertheless, contrary to the Act, taken upon themselves to authorise the application to expenditure of £120,938 19s. 7d., which is not a saving of expenditure but an excess of receipts beyond the total sums appropriated in aid of naval expenditure by the Appropriation Act, 1905; whether a precisely similar course under precisely similar circumstances was taken by the Treasury in regard to a sum of £172,392 13s. 4d. on the Army Votes; why the Treasury thus took upon itself to exercise powers beyond those conferred upon it by law, and reported by the officer appointed to examine the public accounts on behalf of this House to be without statutory sanction; whether he will direct these two sums, amounting together to £293,331 12s. 11d., to be surrendered to the Exchequer; and whether he will undertake that in future the Treasury shall set an example to the other departments of strict obedience to the law.

MR. ASQUITH: Before I read my Answer to the hon. Member, I beg to assure him that my sole object in asking him to postpone his Question until to-day was in order that I might obtain the fuller information which I have now got, and which, I am afraid, will trespass for some time on the attention of the House. I agree generally with the hon. Member in his interpretation of Section 5 of the Appropriation Act, 1905, and gave orders, as soon as the matter was brought to my personal notice, that an Amendment should be drafted so as to make it quite clear in future that the Treasury's temporary powers shall extend to making up any deficiency upon the receipts appropriated in aid of any Navy (or Army) Vote out of the surplus receipts on account of appropriations in aid on other Navy (or Army) Votes respectively. My decision has been communicated by the Treasury to the Public Accounts Committee, who are considering the Navy and Army Appropriation Accounts on which the Comptroller and Auditor-General raised the question; and their approval will be sought forthwith to the draft Amendment of the Treasury, which has already been agreed to both by the Comptroller and Auditor-General and by the authorities of the House. So far, I have dealt with the steps to be taken for regularising the position for the future. As regards the current year, I may add that in the Treasury Minutes of the 22nd inst., which were laid in dummy on the Table of the House on Friday, the temporary application of anticipated surpluses to meet anticipated deficits on Navy and Army Votes for 1906-7 has accordingly been dealt with exclusively on the basis of using surpluses effected by the saving of expenditure without applying any extra receipts. I now propose to deal with the second part of the Question, in which the hon. Member asks, with reference to the year 1905-6, that sums of £120,938 19s. 7d. in respect of the Navy and of £172,392 13s. 4d. in respect of the Army may be surrendered to the Exchequer. These sums represent the gross excess of actual over estimated receipts on certain Navy and Army Votes respectively, and I will now indicate how, if they had been surrendered *eo nomine* to the Exchequer, the Exchequer and the old Sinking Fund could not have received one penny more than the net surplus of £237,758 19s. 2d. on the Navy or of £1,334,136 17s. 10d. on the Army, as shown on the face of the Appropriation Accounts for the respective services. As the hon. Member will see, this result flows from the fact that there was an unexhausted balance of authorised grants from the Exchequer, out of which the deficiences of receipts appropriated in aid of certain Navy and Army Votes could have been made good without making any use of the surpluses of receipts which have arisen on certain other Votes. All that would have happened would have been two payments of extra receipts into the Exchequer and a precisely equal increase of the two payments out of the Exchequer under the head of Exchequer Grants.† This explanation will, I trust, satisfy the hon. Member that the action actually taken by the Treasury, in accordance with an unchallenged practice of many years standing, amounts in substance to precisely the same thing, so far as the Exchequer is concerned, as payment of the excess Navy and Army receipts into the Exchequer and the consequent issue of a correspondingly larger sum out of the Exchequer under the head of authorised Exchequer Grants.

MR. BOWLES: Does the right hon. Gentleman deny that his action in authorising the application of these moneys in this way was unlawful?

MR. ASQUITH: I have said that on the technical point I agree with the hon. Gentleman. But the action taken by the Treasury is one that has been pursued for twelve years under I do not know how many successive Chancellors of the Exchequer. I see one sitting opposite. It was treated so much as a matter of routine that it was never even brought to my notice. But as regards the future, I agree that we must regularise the proceeding if it is to continue.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E): The right hon. Gentleman says his delay in giving the Answer was to enable him to give fuller information. May I ask him whether he was cognisant of a notice of Motion put down by the hon. Member for Barnstaple for the sole purpose of preventing a discussion of the matter in the House?

MR. ASQUITH: I never heard of the Motion until it was put down. I may say, in regard to the suggestion of the noble Lord, that there is no desire to burke discussion. There will be ample opportunity for discussing the matter on the Motion for Adjournment on Wednesday.

LORD R. CECIL: Has the right hon. Gentleman made any appeal to his hon. friend to withdraw the Motion?

MR. ASQUITH: I shall be glad to do so.

MR. BOWLES gave notice that at the end of Questions he would ask leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to the matter.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E): As the right hon. Gentleman says, I am a fellow culprit. I am, therefore, less interested in the past of this matter than in the future. As to what the right hon. Gentleman proposes for the future, do I rightly understand him to say that the change in the law which he proposes will only authorise excess of receipts to be used to supply a deficiency in receipts, and not a deficiency in the Votes arising otherwise?

MR. ASQUITH: If the right hon. Gentleman will put down his Question on the Paper I will give him a direct Answer. What I intended to imply was that the practice should continue in the future as in the past, not that there should be any alteration.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the proper way of dealing with the admitted illegality would not be to introduce a Supplementary Estimate?

MR. ASQUITH: I think not. The matter is before the Public Accounts Committee, and any recommendation they may make will receive the careful consideration of the Government. I think it can be got rid of under the Appropriation Act.

---

† See also Col. 1457.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): Is not illegality much too strong a word to use? Is not the proposal merely to confer explicitly by the Appropriation Act powers which have hitherto been deemed to reside implicitly in the Treasury?

MR. ASQUITH: That is so.

Canadian Companies' Capital.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has any information as to the approximate amount or the proportion of the capital of public industrial companies in Canada which is held by persons resident in the United Kingdom.

MR. ASQUITH: I have no information which would enable me to make even an approximate estimate.

The Budget.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can now state upon what date he proposes to make his Budget Statement.

MR. ASQUITH: I hope to be able to make the Budget Statement on Thursday, April 18th.

Judges' Allowances.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state the amount received by the Judges on circuit to Newcastle and Bristol since 31st March, 1906, for table money and travelling expenses respectively.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The information asked for is as follows:—

NEWCASTLE.

	£	s.	d.
"Subsistence allowance" at £7 10s. a day - -	£180	0	0
First class railway fares -	9	11	3
	£189	11	3

BRISTOL.

	£	s.	d.
"Subsistence Allowance" at £7 10s. a day - -	£292	10	0
First class railway fares -	4	17	6
	£297	7	6

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Is the £7 10s. daily in addition to the salary?

MR. RUNCIMAN: Yes.

Factory Inspectors and Inquests.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state to what extent inspectors' assistants have been sent to inquests to represent his Department; and whether they have gone as principals or only as advisers to other inspectors.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): In 1906 inquests were attended on six occasions by factory inspectors' assistants, on four of which they accompanied an inspector. As the hon. Member is aware, the fatal accidents in workshops are very few.

Crime in East Yorkshire.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that during the year 1905 there were in the East Riding of York seventy-eight habitual criminals at large, thirty persons under police protection, 1,718 indictable crimes known to the police, two cases of murder, five cases of arson, three cases of felonious wounding, one case of unnatural offence, two cases of indecency with males, two cases of indecent assault on females, five cases of defilement of girls under thirteen, three cases of defilement of girls under sixteen, and 161 cases of malicious damage; and what steps he intends to take to remedy this state of affairs.

MR. GLADSTONE: The figures given by the hon. Member correspond closely to those in the Criminal Statistics for 1905, though there are one or two errors of detail. Most of the crime mentioned arises in the seaport of Hull—there is very little in the remainder of the Riding. I have every confidence that the police are well able to deal with the matter.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Were these crimes agrarian crimes?

[No Answer was returned.]

Women and Children in Public Houses.

MR. SMEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that recent investigation has established the fact that in many quarters of London and other large towns every day of the week, from morning till late at night, the public houses are crowded with women, who not only bring their little children into the heated atmosphere of public bars, but also dose their infants with alcohol; that eminent expert authorities attribute the physical and moral deterioration of certain classes of the people to the fact above stated; and whether, in the coming Licensing Bill, he will consider the urgency of including a provision that no child shall, under any pretext whatever, be allowed to enter a public house.

MR. GLADSTONE: I do not think the state of affairs is quite so bad as is represented by the hon. Member, but I agree that the question—though by no means a new or recently discovered one—is serious, and it is engaging my earnest attention.

MR. LEA: Will there be a clause in the Licensing Bill to prohibit this sort of thing?

MR. GLADSTONE: I can add nothing to my Answer.

MR. LEA: And if prohibition is insisted on will it also be extended to clubs?

MR. GLADSTONE: I will give full information when I introduce the Bill.

Salford Stipendiary Magistrates and Passive Resisters.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the language employed by the stipendiary magistrate of Salford when several Christian ministers and other prominent citizens, passive resisters, were before him; whether, when they said they must obey God, he told them to go to God's country, to go anywhere, if they could not obey the laws of England to go to Canada; whether he refused to include the cases under one warrant, though admitting his discretion to do so; whether, on the same day and under the same roof other magistrates, unpaid, adjourned similar cases for a month pending the issue of a Bill now before this House; and whether he proposes to take any action towards the stipendiary magistrate in question.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am not responsible for the observations made by magistrates in court, and have no power to interfere with their discretion in dealing with matters that come before them judicially; but I may say that I am informed that at the close of the hearing mentioned in the Question the spokesman for the defendants thanked the magistrate for the courtesy with which he had listened to them. The magistrate would have liked to include all the cases in one distress warrant, but after the matter had been carefully argued was satisfied that he had no power to do so.

Hull Chief Constable and Juvenile Offenders.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the report by Major Malcolm, Chief Constable of Hull, of his scheme (adopted by the health committee of the corporation) for dealing with juvenile offenders, in view of the results, extending to 600 cases in six months, in keeping the children from contact with the police court and in preventing a recurrence of the offences; whether he will consider the advisability of proceeding, either by legislation or administrative action, in regard to juvenile offenders in all the great towns; and can he say in how many places separate courts or some method of separate treatment have been set up for accused persons of tender age.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have now seen Major Malcolm's report. The scheme he has adopted with the approval of the watch committee appears to have worked admirably during the six months it has been in operation. But it involves the Chief Constable exercising something very nearly akin to judicial functions, and I doubt whether I could properly recommend its general adoption. I shall watch the further progress of Major Malcolm's experiment with interest. I trust that the Probation of Offenders Bill which I have introduced will assist in dealing with the juvenile offenders in large towns. Full particulars as to the separation of children in police courts are given in a Return prepared by the Home Office and circulated to Members last Friday.

Criminals at Large.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of habitual criminals at large in England under police supervision during the years 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and the months of January and February, 1907.

MR. GLADSTONE: The figures for 1906 are not yet complete, and monthly Returns on this subject are not made to the Home Office. The number of persons under police supervision for the years 1901 to 1905 were 2,769, 2,542, 2,531, 2,778, 3,050.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: How many of them are of Irish birth and what proportion are they to the population?

[No Answer was returned.]

Crime in Wiltshire.

MR. MOONEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of indictable offences in the county of Wiltshire for the years 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and the months of January and February 1907, under the following heads: murder, attempt of murder, threats or conspiracy to murder, malicious wounding, indecent assault on females, defilement of girls under thirteen, arson, killing and maiming cattle, malicious damage, stealing animals, trees, fruit, etc.

MR. GLADSTONE: The hon. Member will find the figures he requires for the years 1901 to 1905 in the Annual Volumes of Criminal Statistics, Tables XXIII and XXIV.

MR. MOONEY: What are the figures for January and February this year?

MR. GLADSTONE: I have not got them.

MR. MOONEY: How is it that when a similar Question as to Ireland is addressed to the Irish Secretary the figures are at once forthcoming, and yet they are not obtainable for England?

MR. GLADSTONE: Probably it is due to the fact that the Returns are not made monthly in this country.

Crimes in England.

MR. MOONEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will state the number of crimes in England in the years 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and the months of January and February 1907, under the following heads: murder, attempts to murder, threats or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, felonious wounding, intimidation and molestation, unnatural offences, attempts to commit unnatural offences, indecency with males, indecent assault on females, defilement of girls under thirteen, defilement of girls under sixteen, setting fire to crops, killing and maiming cattle, arson, and malicious injury.

MR. GLADSTONE: The figures for 1906 are not complete. There are no monthly Returns. The hon. Member will find the other figures he requires in Table XIX of the Annual Volumes of Criminal Statistics.

MR. MOONEY: What is the reason for the difference of procedure in England and Ireland?

MR. GLADSTONE: I cannot say. It is a matter of administration.

Penge Vaccination Prosecution.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Mr. Manger, Penge, who has been mulcted at the Bromley police court in £4 5s. of penalty and costs for non-vaccination of his child; and whether, in view of the intentions of the legislature, he will take measures to prevent in future such accumulations of costs.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have no authority to interfere with the discretion of magistrates in the matter of costs, but I have made inquiry in the case and find that the large amount of costs to which the defendant became liable was due to the fact that at Bromley defendants in vaccination cases are usually represented by counsel, the vaccination officer has therefore to be legally represented, and the justices consider that the cost involved should fall on the defendant rather than on the ratepayers.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Is the right hon. Gentleman of opinion that vaccination is still compulsory?

[No Answer was returned.]

Juvenile Woman Suffragists.

SIR BERKELEY SHEFFIELD (Lincolnshire, Brigg): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the remarks made by the magistrate with reference to the case of a girl of tender age who had been brought to London from Lancashire by the suffragettes; and, if so, what action he proposes to take.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have seen a report of the magistrate's remarks on the case of two girls, one from Preston, and the other from Huddersfield, which I think were justified. The magistrate tells me that he has made satisfactory arrangements for one of them to go home to her friends to-day, and he hopes, if the other will consent, to deal with her in the same way next Wednesday.

Bankrupt Aliens.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can give the gross loss to creditors from bankruptcies of aliens during the last five years; and what proportion of such loss is due to different nationalities.

I beg further to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state how many aliens have been made bankrupt in this country in the last five years; how many of these bankruptcies occurred in London; what is the average payment to creditors of native and alien bankrupts respectively; how many alien bankrupts have been found, in the same period, not to have kept books; what is the average proportion of assets of debts as between native and alien bankrupts; how many bankrupts have been Russian subjects; and how many have stated that, prior to their insolvency, they made their business over to their wives or other relatives.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): No separate statistics for aliens have been kept by the Board of Trade which will enable me to furnish information as to the number of, or the losses to creditors from bankruptcies of aliens during the last five years, but I may remind the hon. Member that some figures on this subject were given by the Senior Official Receiver of the London (High Court) District in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration of which the hon. Gentleman was a member.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: Are there no figures more recent?

MR. KEARLEY: No, Sir.

Newbury Railway Station.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Great Western Railway station at Newbury was built fifty-nine years ago and has never been adapted to the altered conditions and increased traffic of the last few years, due to the construction of the Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton line and the Lambourn Valley line, and the diversion of main line trains to the West of England to the Newbury line; that there are only two lines of rails to convey the whole of the goods, ordinary, and express traffic through the station; that not less than sixty trains run into the station daily, in addition to goods and fast express trains, the pace of the latter being such as to sweep luggage off the narrow platform and endanger the lives of persons standing on it; that the Corporation of Newbury has twice passed formal resolutions urging the Great Western Railway Board to build a new station, but that nothing has been done to meet their wishes; and whether he will inquire into the above facts.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade are informed by the company that the directors have authorised the expenditure necessary for the reconstruction of this station on modern lines and the work will be undertaken as soon as the necessary land can be acquired. The company's letter also deals at length with other points referred to in my hon. friend's Question, and I am sending him a copy.

British Imports of Iron and Steel Manufactures.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the total value of the imports of iron and steel manufactures into the British Empire as a whole from all foreign countries; and what was the total value of the exports of the same from the British Empire as a whole to all foreign countries for each of the years 1900–5.

Mr. KEARLEY: My right hon. friend is having a statement prepared howing so far as possible the information equired by the right hon. Gentleman, nd will communicate it to him.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: May I ask the hon. Gentleman if he is aware that the Statistical Abstract of trades of the British Empire, published by the Board of Trade, discloses no such manufactured articles exported from the British Empire? Will he take care that in future the record is made more accurate?

Mr. KEARLEY: I must ask for notice of that question.

Railway Companies Combination.

Mr. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has had any correspondence with railway companies concerning the recent development of combination among them; and, if so, will he lay the same upon the Table.

Mr. KEARLEY: The reply to both Questions is in the affirmative.

Dover Harbour—Proposed Increase of the Poll Tax.

Mr. W. R. REA (Scarborough): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any application has been made by the Dover Harbour Board to the Board of Trade, under Section 27 of The Dover Harbour (Works, etc.) Act, 1906, for their consent to an increase of the poll tax on passengers landing or embarking at Dover; and, if so, what steps the Board propose to take before coming to a decision on the application.

Mr. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade have received an application under the section referred to for their consent to the raising of the poll tax from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. Before coming to any decision on this application it is intended to hold a public inquiry at the offices of the Board of Trade on Wednesday, 10th April, at 11 a.m., at which inquiry any persons interested in the matter may attend and be heard.

Lord de Ramsey and his Allotment Tenants.

Mr. A. ALLEN (Christchurch): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board how many allotment holders received notice from Lord de Ramsey in the spring of 1906; how many of such allotment holders have since obtained allotments under the urban district council; and whether the rental charged by Lord de Ramsey to the urban district council is more than that previously charged to the men.

Mr. STANLEY WILSON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a case for libel is pending with regard to this question?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): Yes, Sir; and my Answer will not in any sense affect that. I am informed that the number of holders of allotment lands belonging to Lord de Ramsey in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire who received notice from him in the spring of 1906 was 580, of whom 488 held allotments in the urban district of Ramsey. It is stated that twenty of these persons resided outside the district, thirty-two more occupied other allotments, and forty-six occupied other land to the extent of five or more acres, and that hence the number of the previous allotment holders for whom the urban district council could provide allotments was 390. The number of persons who have taken allotments under the council is 209, some of whom, however, had not previously held allotments. It is added that the council had the opportunity of acquiring land for all persons qualified and willing to accept allotments under them, and that they repeatedly invited applications. I understand that the rents charged by Lord de Ramsey to the men for the lands now taken by the council averaged £2 6s. 10d. per acre, Lord de Ramsey paying all rates and taxes. The rents charged for the same lands to the council average £2 0s. 5d., but the council pay rates and taxes, which average 13s. 1d. per acre.

Grand Committee Rooms.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works what arrangements are being made for the provision of suitable rooms for Grand Committees, in view of the Government proposals to double the number of Grand Committees and to increase their work.

I beg also to ask the First Commissioner of Works if, considering the proposal to multiply the work of Grand Committees, he can avoid the overcrowding and improve the desk accommodation in the large committee room.

I beg further to ask the First Commissioner of Works if suitable provision can be made to enlarge accommodation for the public and the Press in the Grand Committee rooms, considering that all Bills, except those withheld by Resolution of the House, are in future to be sent upstairs.

MR. HARCOURT: If and when new Grand Committees are brought into existence I shall consider what temporary accommodation can be provided for them pending structural alterations of a more permanent character. I am inquiring into improved accommodation for Press and public and desks in the existing rooms.

House Attendants and All-Night Sittings.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether the attendants in his Department who remained on duty during the prolonged sitting will receive extra remuneration or relief from duty; and, if not, whether he will consider the advisability of recognising in some fitting manner their long hours of attendance on this occasion.

MR. HARCOURT: Arrangements for the staff of my Department at the House are made with special reference to the liability to occasional extra duty. There are relief shifts to avoid continuous duty and special privileges as to extra leave as compensation for unavoidable overtime.

Worcestershire Education Grant.

MR. C. B. HARMSWORTH (Worcestershire, Droitwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the complaint of the Worcestershire County Council that sometimes as many as six, eight, and ten months elapse before a grant earned by the council is paid over; and whether he will take steps to ensure that the payment of grants earned may be made at an interval not greater than three months from the notification that the grant has been earned.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouth, N.): My attention has been called to the complaint referred to, but I have not been informed whether the grants in question are in respect of elementary, secondary, or technical education, or in respect of what particular schools delay is alleged to have occurred. I have no knowledge of any undue delay, but if the hon. Member will furnish me with this information, I will cause inquiries to be made. In the case of elementary schools, the payment is usually made by the same post that the notification is despatched.

Teachers' Salaries Return.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when the Education Return as to the salaries of teachers in voluntary schools will be presented.

MR. McKENNA: The statement has already been presented, and is now in the printers' hands. It will be available for Members to-night or to-morrow.

August Bank Holiday and the Law Courts.

MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, having regard to the fact that under the Order in Council of the 1st instant the long vacation now begins on the 1st August, and that little or no legal business can be done in the several offices of the Supreme Court on the August Bank Holiday, he will consider the advisability of making a representation to the Rule Committee suggesting the amendment of the Rules of the Supreme Court so that the first Monday in August may be added to the days on which the offices are closed.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said he had made representations on that point.

Salmon Fisheries Bill.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can give any information as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government in relation to the Report of the late Royal Commission on Salmon Fisheries; and whether it is proposed to introduce legislation this session dealing with the subject on the lines recommended in that Report.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): A Bill has been introduced by my noble friend which will enable the recommendations of the Royal Commission to be carried out.

Treatment of Youthful Offenders.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he would grant, with regard to Scotland, a Return similar to that moved for by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, dealing with the treatment of youthful offenders, specifying the number of young persons charged with offences, stating how far a system of probation might have been applied to their cases; and telling the steps taken in the court of each district to separate children from adult prisoners.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I shall be glad to adjust the terms of such a Return if my hon. friend will communicate any suggestions.

Scottish Salmon Fishery Rights.

MR. GULLAND: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that after the House of Lords' decision in 1859 that no person had a right to fish for salmon in the Scottish seas without grant from the Crown, 345 persons exercising salmon fishing on the sea coast were asked to produce their charters, that a large number confessed want of title, and that an annual rental of £1,200 was restored to the public; and whether he will call for a similar production of the charters of the persons claiming salmon rights in the rivers of Scotland.

MR. SINCLAIR: It is a fact that, about the time of the decision referred to in the Question, many owners of estates on the sea coasts of Scotland were asked to produce their titles to the salmon fishings in the sea. Of those who responded some showed a good title and others confessed want of title. In many cases there was no response, and the titles were examined by reference to the records in Edinburgh. In the result the Crown established the right to a large number of salmon fishings in the sea, and a rental of them now amounts to between £7,000 and £8,000 a year. Up to the present time there has been no general or systematic invitation to landowners whose estates abut on Scottish salmon rivers to produce their titles, followed in case of refusal by an investigation of the records, as from the experience of such investigations that have been made it appeared probable that the results would not be of sufficient importance to justify the expense involved; but a certain number of special cases have been from time to time investigated as circumstances have provided occasion for so doing, with varying results. It should be explained that according to the law of Scotland persons may acquire a right to salmon fishings, not only by an express grant of such fishings from the Crown, but also by (1) a Barony title to their estates coupled with possession of salmon fishings for the prescriptive period, or (2) a grant of *fishings* in general terms coupled with possession of *salmon fishings.* A reference to the charters of the estate is therefore very often insufficient in itself to show whether there is a title to salmon fishings, and it has to be supplemented by evidence as to possession. The Commissioners of Woods, who have been good enough to supply the above information, always take action should they obtain information as to any cases in which there is reason to believe that Crown rights are being invaded.

Education (Scotland) Bill.

Mr. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the Education (Scotland) Bill will extend the franchise to occupiers of holdings of a less rental value than £4 per annum, and give to all persons entitled to vote at council elections in Scotland a vote at school board elections.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Under the Bill it is proposed to make the school board franchise the same as that for parish council elections.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to arrange that the text of this Bill and also that of the Small Landowners Bill shall be available for use during the Easter recess?

Mr. SINCLAIR: Every effort shall be made with that object.

Arbroath Railway Fatality.

Mr. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he is aware that G. Gourlay, driver of the ill-fated train at Arbroath on 28th December last, was arrested and criminally charged before the public inquiry was held; whether he is aware that such procedure is not practised in other parts of the United Kingdom; and whether, with a view to removing possible injustice in future, he will arrange that men shall not, under such circumstances, be arrested and charged before public inquiries are held.

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs): The first two paragraphs correctly represent the facts. I am obliged to my hon. friend for calling my attention to this matter; and I have issued an instruction to the Procurators Fiscal in Scotland that if there be circumstances pointing to special urgency of arrest they are to report them to my Department for definite instructions and act accordingly, but that in all ordinary cases arrest is not to precede the verdict in the fatal accident's inquiry.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): Seeing that this man was under arrest so long before his trial, cannot the hon. Gentleman see his way now to remit part of the sentence?

Mr. THOMAS SHAW: That is not in my Department. I understand that all the facts are before the Secretary for Scotland at this moment.

Pakenham-Mahon Estate, Roscommon.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that purchase agreements were signed between the owner and the tenants of the Pakenham-Mahon estate, at Dysart, county Roscommon, so far back as 1905; whether repeated applications have been made to complete the agreement and no progress made by the Estates Commissioners in the matter; and whether he will make representations to them to expedite the transfer of this estate to the tenants.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr Birrell, Bristol, N.): The estate in question has been offered for sale to the Estates Commissioners, who have directed an inspection to be made. So far as the Commissioners are aware the tenants have not signed agreements to purchase from the owner direct.

Seed Potatoes for Curraghmore.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that no provision has been made in the congested division of Curraghmore, near Killorglin, for the acquisition, at a reduced price, of seed potatoes, seed oats, and lime; and whether, in view of the fact that owing to the representations of Mr. Jeremiah Breen, R.D.C. for this division, the scheme of supplying lime at a reduced rate was adopted by the Congested Districts Board, he will see that the advantages conferred on the neighbouring districts of Killorglin and Glenbeigh are given to the Curraghmore district.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have inquired into the circumstances of this locality, and are satisfied that no exceptional distress exists in it. The Department of Agriculture have supplied seeds and manures for a number of demonstration plots in the district of Killorglin, and it is hoped that the result will be to encourage the introduction of fresh seeds and the use of suitable manures. The arrangements for the present year have been completed and cannot now be extended. The Congested Districts Board are not prepared to make arrangements for supplying lime at a reduced rate in the Curraghmore division.

Agricultural Department By-Laws—Donegal Resolutions.

MR. C. MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the County Donegal Committee of Agriculture on the 5th instant protesting against the by-law proposed by the Agricultural Department; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take to protect the fishermen's rights from being restricted in the way complained of.

MR. BIRRELL: The resolution referred to has been received The proposed by-law against which it protests will shortly be submitted for the approval of the Lord-Lieutenant in Council, and any person can there appeal against its provisions. I do not propose to take any steps to anticipate the decision of the Council, who will doubtless give full consideration to all the circumstances of the case.

Duke of Abercorn's Donegal Estate.

MR. C. MACVEIGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what is the cause of the delay on the part of the Estates Commissioners in completing the sale to the tenants on the Donegal Estate of the Duke of Abercorn; if an inspector has visited the estate, and the agreements to purchase were signed in 1904; and, in view of the fact that the tenants are paying 3½ per cent. on their purchase money without reducing the term of their annuities, will he cause this sale to be immediately completed.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have taken up this case in order of priority, and have received their inspector's report upon the estate. Certain legal questions have arisen out of the report, and these have been referred to the vendor's solicitor. The completion of the sale will depend upon the rapidity with which these queries are discharged.

Dunshaughlin Labourers Cottages.

MR. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the inspector who recently held an inquiry under the Labourers Act, in Dunshaughlin, rejected twenty-five claims for extra half-acre plots and twenty-five claims for houses and acre plots; whether he is aware that the inspector's action has been strongly condemned by the Dunshaughlin District Council, as against the evidence produced at the inquiry and the wants of the district; whether there is any means, by petition or appeal, of revising the decision of the inspector; and, if no such appeal or petition is available to councils who promote schemes at expense to the rates, will he cause the rules of the Local Government Board to be so framed as to give the same rights of petition, against the decisions of inspectors, to the district councils and labourers who promote labourers' schemes as are open to parties opposing such schemes or cases in such schemes.

MR. BIRRELL: The correct numbers of applications rejected in this case are: sixteen additional half-acres out of fifty-six proposed, and twenty-three cottages and acre plots out of ninety-six proposed. The reason for the rejection in each case has been furnished to the council, and although they have passed a resolution objecting to the inspector's decision, they have not furnished any particulars which would tend to show that his conclusions were not warranted by the facts. The Acts do not contemplate the lodgment of petitions against the inspector's decision, except in cases in which he has approved of the council's scheme, and the formulation of rules such as suggested would be in excess of the Local Government Board's jurisdiction under the Acts. The financial arrangements under the new Act allow for the erection of 25,000 additional cottages only, but the first batch of applications proposes the erection of 47,000 cottages and the acquisition of 11,000 additional allotments. It is obvious that not one half of the number asked for can be provided, and it therefore behoves the inspector to be most careful to pass those applications only in which the necessity for cottages and plots is proved beyond all doubt.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Is it not the case there was no intention of limiting the number of additional cottages to 25,000, and that in the debates in this House a hope was expressed that by the exercise of economy considerably more might be erected?

MR. BIRRELL: I have no doubt the hon. Gentleman is correct in his recollection of what was stated in the debate. I quite agree that by the exercise of thrift and economy, and by keeping the legal expenses down, it ought to be possible to erect a much larger number of cottages.

Ireland and Education Grants.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is intended to give Ireland a grant as an equivalent for the £100,000 already voted for assisting the erection of new schools in England and Wales.

MR. ASQUITH: No, Sir. Ireland has had Exchequer grants for the erection of new schools for many years, while England and Wales have not. If the principle of "equivalence" were applied, the result would be very material augmentation of the £100,000 which has now been voted for England and Wales.

Dublin Training College—Donegal Protest.

MR. C. MACVEIGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution from the County Donegal Committee of Agriculture, passed at their meeting on the 5th instant, protesting against the proposal to build the technical training college in Dublin with Portland stone when a superior and cheaper stone can be found at Mountcharles, in Ireland; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made, and see that Irish material, when available, is used in all Irish Government contracts.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I have nothing to add to the numerous replies that have been given on this subject.

Ardcath (Meath) Post Office.

MR. SHEEHY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can see his way to establish a post office in Ardcath, county Meath, with money-order office attached, as the people of the village are four miles from the nearest post office, and suffer loss and inconvenience through want of postal and money-order facilities.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I have called for a report on this subject, and on its receipt I will send the hon. Member a reply.

Kerry Mail Contract.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can say what has been the result of his inquiries into the reason why the people of Newcastle West have now to post their letters at 7.30 o'clock a.m. instead of 9 o'clock p.m., as formerly, which has caused inconvenience; and whether he will take steps to have the old system reverted to.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The contract for the mail service on the Kerry line was terminated in 1902 by the railway company, who demanded a very large increase in the payment for the maintenance of the mail trains. No increase whatever in the payment was justified by the amount of correspondence, as the service in the district already involved a heavy annual loss, and there was no alternative but to acquiesce in the modification in the service which the company proposed; and they have not seen their way to make any permanent alteration since. I am glad to say that I have found myself able to make arrangements for a despatch from Newcastle West to connect with the Fishguard and Rosslare service to England, by the use of which letters for London and the South of England will be materially accelerated in delivery.

Government Licensing Bill.

MR. LEIF JONES: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will state when the Licensing Bill, referred to in the King's Speech, will be introduced.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): No, Sir, I am afraid that I am not in a position, as yet, to make a definite statement about the Licensing Bill.

MR. LEIF JONES: When will the right hon. Gentleman be in a position to announce it?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot say. I wish I could.

Education Grant.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): On behalf of the noble Lord the Member for the Chorley Division of Lancashire, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been called to the item of £100,000 in Class 4, Vote 1, c. 6, entitled special provision for new schools; if a portion of this sum was included in the Vote on Account; and if, in view of Section 96 of the Education Act of 1870, which specifically forbids Parliamentary grants in aid of building, enlarging, improving, or fitting up elementary schools, he will undertake that no portion of this sum shall be spent until Section 96 is repealed.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No portion of this sum is included in the Vote on Account, and, as my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education has already stated, no portion will be spent until such statutory authorisation has been obtained as may be necessary.

Jamaica—Relief Grant.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister when the Government will announce its decision as to a money grant towards the relief of distress resulting from the Jamaica earthquake.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: We are not yet in possession of the further information which has been promised; and it will not be possible to make any announcement on this subject until after the Easter recess.

The Butter Bill.

SIR F. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he has considered the urgent representations made not only by the Chambers of Agriculture and other agricultural bodies, but also by the grocers and other traders, and the co-operative associations, in support of the Butter and Margarine Bill; and whether, having regard to the fact that the Bill is not seriously opposed or controversial, he will endeavour to get it passed and referred to the Committee on Trade at an early date after the recess.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I hope this Bill will be taken on an early date after the Easter recess.

NATIONAL FINANCES—USE OF SURPLUSES.

MR. BOWLES rose to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of calling attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance, the unlawful action of His Majesty's Government in misappropriating £293,331 12s. 11d. of public money.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is barred from raising that Question on an Adjournment Motion by a notice of Motion standing in the name of the hon. Member for Barnstaple.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Is not the hon. Member for Barnstaple private secretary to one of the Cabinet Ministers?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) wished to ask the Government in reference to those who had put down what hon. Members opposite had often called a blocking Motion whether this was not a proper case for the use of "peaceful persuasion" in favour of his hon. friend raising a point, the difficulty and importance of which, he believed, were denied by nobody, least of all by the Minister concerned.

SIR CHARLES DILKE asked whether the hon. Member's Motion would not equally interfere with private Members' Motions for the next day to which the same remarks applied?

MR. ASQUITH pointed out that there could be no real grievance in the matter, because the hon. Gentleman could raise the whole question on the Motion for the Adjournment over Easter on Wednesday.

MR. BOWLES: But if the Motion of the hon. Member for Barnstaple remain on the Paper will that not preclude the question being raised?

*MR. SPEAKER said that if the Motion of the hon. Member for Barnstaple still appeared on the Paper on Wednesday the question could not be raised on the Motion for Adjournment.

MR. ASQUITH: As far as I am concerned, I will appeal to the hon. Member for Barnstaple to withdraw his Motion.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Why was it put down at all?

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

*MR. LEIF JONES drew attention to a point of procedure and asked for Mr. Speaker's ruling upon a matter in which the rights of Members to bring forward Motions were concerned. The hon. Member for Bosworth on 13th March drew first place in the ballot, and gave notice of his intention on Wednesday next to submit for discussion a Motion for the enfranchisement of women. Since that date the hon. Member for the Loughborough Division had given notice of his intention to present to-morrow a Bill to confer the franchise on adult men and women. Under the new rules of procedure there was no power to object to the presentation of a Bill, and he presumed a date for Second Reading would be fixed. He wished to ask whether the presentation of the Bill would prevent discussion of the Motion his hon. friend proposed to introduce; secondly, whether there was any record of the presentation of a Bill blocking a Motion for which priority had been secured by ballot; thirdly, whether, if the practice became general, Members might not be deprived of the right, intended to be conferred on them by success in the ballot, of bringing any subject before the House, seeing that any other Member to whom the subject was distasteful could prevent the discussion by introducing a dummy Bill; and whether the Speaker could suggest means whereby the rights of Members could be safeguarded.

*MR. SPEAKER: My attention has been called to this matter, and I have to say in answer to the first Question which the hon. Member for the Appleby Division has put to me that, if the hon. Member for Loughborough does introduce the Bill referred to to-morrow and should thereafter fix a particular date for the Second Reading, in my judgment that would prevent the discussion of the Motion given notice of by the hon. Member for Bosworth. In his second Question the hon. Member for Appleby asks if any previous case of this kind has occurred, and to this I have to say that I am not aware of any exact parallel. Under the old system a Member had to obtain the leave of the House to introduce a Bill, and the House itself would decide upon that question, but under the new rule for the presentation of Bills the House has no option. I cannot help thinking that when the new rule was passed such a case as has now occurred may possibly have been overlooked. I do not know with what motive the hon. Member for Loughborough has given notice of his Bill. I am not entitled, nor do I wish to attribute any motive to him in so doing; but I certainly cannot help regretting that his action, if taken, will have the effect I have indicated. It seems to me an infringement, or it may become an infringement, of the right of an hon. Member to bring forward a Motion; for any Member if he wishes to burke a Motion may give notice of a Bill and thereby prevent a Motion from coming on. I will do anything in my power to prevail on the hon. Member for Loughborough not to exercise his right in this respect. As to the last Question put to me, whether there are any means of preserving the right of a Member who has been successful in the ballot, I do not know of any means except those of "peaceful persuasion."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether, even under the old rule, there would be any means of avoiding the difficulty except by rejecting the Motion for the First Reading.

*MR. SPEAKER: That would be the only means; the House might take into consideration the fact that by passing the First Reading the opportunity for the Motion would be destroyed.

RAILWAY (CONTRACTS) BILL.

Report, without Amendment, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 96.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 96.]

Bill to be considered upon Friday the 14th June.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

First Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SMALL HOLDINGS BILL.

Order for Second Reading upon Friday the 17th May read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

REGULATION OF RAILWAYS BILL.

"To amend the Railways Regulation Act, 1840 to 1893," presented by Mr. Timothy Davies; supported by Mr. Arthur Allen, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Lyulph Stanley, and Mr. Steadman; to be read a second time upon Tuesday 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 134.]

RAILWAYS, MINES, CANALS, ETC., BILL.

"To Provide for the nationalisation of Railways, Mines, Canals, and Tramways," presented by Mr. Thorne; supported by Mr. Snowden, Mr. O'Grady Mr. Summerbell, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Gill, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Barnes; to be read a second time upon Friday 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 135.]

EIGHT HOURS BILL.

"To restrict the Hours of Labour in all trades and industries to Eight per day," presented by Mr. Thorne; supported by Mr. Jowett, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Summerbell, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Wilkie; to be read a second time upon Friday 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 136.]

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

"To amend section seventy-eight of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the deduction of the space occupied by Propelling Power in ascertaining the Tonnage of a ship," presented by Mr. Lloyd-George; to be read a second time upon Monday 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 137.]

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY BILL.

"To amend the Law relating Public Rights of Ways," presented by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald; supported by Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Eugene Wason, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Hills, Mr. Abel Thomas, Mr. William Redmond, and Mr. Arthur Henderson; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 138.]

SHERIFF COURTS (SCOTLAND).

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs): I ask leave to introduce a Bill to regulate and amend the laws and practice relating to the civil procedure on Sheriff Courts in Scotland and for other purposes. These courts are substantially equivalent to the county court system in England. This Bill has been necessitated by the complexity of legislation on the subject for many years past. There are no fewer than five statutes on the subject, containing many provisions which overlap and in some respects conflict one with another. The need for consolidation and regulation is made perfectly manifest by the report of the Departmental Committee which reported on the subject in 1904. I have availed myself to the fullest extent of the labours of that Committee, and also of the labours of other professional bodies which have been agitating the subject for several years past. The Scottish Members will be aware that in 1867 there was established a Debts Recovery Court. That has never been a satisfactory institution, and we propose under this Bill to abolish it. In lieu of it, however, there are certain other provisions in the Bill which will cover the ground in a more effective manner. My second observation is with regard to one of the most useful courts in Scotland—humble though it be—called the Small-Debt Court. Upon that court the Departmental Committee reported that there was a strong consensus of opinion in favour of its utility and popularity "in cases involving small sums." The Report stated—

> "Litigants are by its means able to obtain a decision with great expedition, and at a very small cost. It is essentially the poor man's court, and has, from his point of view, very great advantages."

I have taken advantage of the recommendations of the Committee's report, and I have, with the approbation of the public and professional bodies, raised the limit of the jurisdiction from £12 to £20, to be sued for at the cost of a few shillings. In the third place, I fear I have made a large invasion into the right of appeal in the Supreme Courts in Scotland. As the House is aware, the cost of litigation in Scotland is in many cases altogether out of proportion to the sum sued for. I made an effort last year in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Act to remedy that grievance, and I now make a second effort under this Bill. I have raised the limit of a possible appeal from the Sheriff Court from £25 to £50, and up to that sum appeals will be altogether excluded, except upon special and particular reserved points of law. With regard to the jurisdiction of the Sheriff Court, then, I propose to extend and amend it very largely by enabling the Sheriff to dispose of cases of separation and aliment, control and custody of children, and so on, as recommended by the Committee. I have to make another explanation to the House, which is somewhat of a personal character. The House will remember I took some share in the discussion of the Workmen's Compensation Act of last year, and introduced amending provisions for the purpose of allowing actions brought under the Employers' Liability Act, or, alternatively, at common law, in the Sheriff Court to be kept there, and finally decided there. An objection was raised by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs and also by some Labour Members, that thereby jury trials in the Supreme Court were abolished, and that no jury trial was established, as in the County Court in England. I made no pledge on the subject at that time, but I said that I would thoroughly consider the whole question. I have done so, and I have now to announce to the House that I propose to institute, as in England, a system of jury trials in the Sheriff Courts. The jury is constituted in a simple way. The jurymen are paid the usual small fee, and the whole proceedings are made optional, as in England, upon the choice of the litigants. In many cases in England the parties do not choose juries, being satisfied with the County Court Judge. I have left the same option to operate in Scotland and I am hopeful that that improvment will do away with the last shred of regret as to loss of the jury system applicable to these comparatively small cases. The legal costs will thereby be reduced to about a seventh of their normal amount under the system prior to last year. We have been encumbered with these Acts of Parliament in Scotland in this way, that the whole procedure, which ought to be of an elastic character, has been put into clauses of Acts of Parliament. I propose to undo the whole of that system and place the whole body of Sheriff Court procedure in a schedule to the Act so as to make a long catalogue of the ordinary acts of process in the Sheriff Court. The schedule will be amended by the process known in Scotland as Acts of Sederunt. In that way progress and development on the lines of this statute will be greatly facilitated. The statute is long, but it is nothing in comparison to the labyrinth of legislative provisions which exist at present. The Bill is substantially a code for the whole Scottish Sheriff Court civil procedure, and I ask the House to permit me to introduce it.

Motion made, and Question "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to regulate and amend the Laws and practice relating to the civil procedure in Sheriff Courts in Scotland, and for other purposes"—put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

SHERIFF COURTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To regulate and amend the Laws and practice relating to the civil procedure in Sheriff Courts in Scotland; and for other purposes," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 139.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE.)

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [20th March], "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to (a) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (b) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders. (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Question again proposed.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said that when the business of the House was interrupted last Wednesday, he was endeavouring to state some of the objections he felt towards the Motion. He had shortly stated why he thought the most important part of the business of the House was not so much its legislative as its deliberative business. The most favourable opportunity of doing their best was when the whole House sat in Committee for deliberative purposes. The Government's proposal, however, would destroy that opportunity, and set up a wholly inadequate substitute. He ventured to think that only Gentlemen who had not been very long in the House would believe that this new rule would not add to the labours of Members. It would add to them, because though there would be no diminution of the evening sittings, there would be an increase in the morning sittings. But if it were true that a Standing Committee sitting at 11.30 would free hon. Members from some of the sittings of the House, none the less would such a proceeding be intolerable to those engaged in professional and commercial pursuits. If practically every Bill was to be sent to a Standing Committee, and if they were to sit for a considerable portion of the session, the result would be to dismiss from the House all those Members who depended on commercial or professional pursuits for their livelihood. The House would be composed of the leisured classes and those who made politics their profession. Such a thing might recommend itself to hon. Gentlemen opposite, as it would tend to payment of Members, which payment would have to be sufficiently high to attract the best men; but it was a matter which would require most careful consideration. It was a noticeable fact that when the right hon. Gentleman mentioned the Scottish Committee as part of his general scheme, he made no mention of England. It did not appear to him necessary to consider England or English rights. He (Lord R. Cecil) opposed the proposal to set up a Scottish Committee, not only because he thought it would be unfair, but because he believed the scheme was constitutionally unsound and that it misconceived the true representative character of the Members of that House. He did not admit that a Member represented only the constituency which sent him there. True, he represented the majority of the opinions of that constituency, but beyond that he represented a fraction not only of this country, but of the whole Empire. It was on that theory that our representative system was built up, and upon that theory it must always rest. He denied that those who represented Scottish constituencies were pre-eminently qualified to discuss Scottish questions. The whole merit of the House of Commons was that it was a House composed of a great many gentlemen who had no special qualification to discuss any particular subject, but who were qualified to discuss all subjects. To take a section of the House which had special private and personal interests in the subject of legislation submitted to it, and to confine the discussion to those Members, was really to weaken the power of discussion in that House. These objections to the details of the scheme were not, however, vital. The vital objection to the scheme as a whole might be condensed into the one word "futility." The hon. and learned Member for Waterford was abundantly justified in saying that this scheme, like all other schemes, was brought forward by its author with the object of restoring the vitality of the House, but that it would do nothing of the sort. The scheme was totally misconceived, because it did not take into account the disease which it proposed to remedy. He did not deny that the House of Commons was in a difficult position. It did not command the same confidence in the country that it commanded in the past. The disease from which it suffered no one would have any difficulty in diagnosing. It was simply that there were too many hon. Members who took an active interest in the business of legislation, and who desired to address the House, and to address it at great length. On the Ministerial side it was called obstruction; on the Opposition side, activity. If any attempt was to be made to cure that disease the symptoms must be recognised. Various cures had been suggested. That of the hon. Member for Waterford pointed to Home Rule all round. That might be compared to the cure of suicide in order to avoid death. It meant the destruction of that House altogether. It reminded him of the old story in "Pickwick," of the man who shot himself after eating a large number of crumpets, in order to prove that his doctor was wrong, and that they would not kill him. Another cure was that they should have more stringent rules of procedure. It was possible, of course, to have rules so stringent as to destroy debate altogether, but the remedy would also destroy the House of Commons. Nor did he think the present Government would have the courage to propose it. They would never go to the country and say their policy was to destroy the House of Lords and to muzzle the House of Commons. But he thought all these remedies missed the true cause of the disease, which was that the debates had become to a large extent unreal. Although nominally addressed to move opinion and to gain votes, it was perfectly well known that although they might move opinion they certainly did not affect votes. The real evil was the rigidity of the present Party system. That was the evil which all sides of the House would have to consider and to see if it was possible in the conduct of a debate to avoid repetition and use only the most cogent argument. If that were possible it might affect votes, but if it was quite apparent that no such result would be attained, then they might be driven by a counsel of despair to continue repeating arguments at great length. There was only one other alternative, if there was no relaxation of Party discipline within a measurable time, and that was that they should leave the present Party system and proceed to a system of groups, which would make a very material difference in the methods of their debates. That would restore reality to their discussions, and make it worth while for every Member to take care to put his argument in a compressed form. Until that fact was impressed on hon. Members none of these miserable little remedies of setting up a Committee here and a Committee there would avail. He did not believe that any sensible man believed that the rule now proposed would make any difference, except that it would diminish that stage of a Bill in which the best work was done by the House.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said he was a Member of the House when the previous Scottish Committee was set up, and he could assure the House that that Committee did really good work, and it was hoped at that time that the Committee would be permanent. The noble Lord had denied that Scotsmen were pre-eminently qualified to settle Scottish business; but if they were not, who were? Those who represented Scotland were quite capable of dealing with their own business. There were Englishmen representing Scottish constituencies, and there were Scotsmen representing English constituencies. The appointment of four Grand Committees would, to a certain extent, relieve the very much overcrowded House. If they could not adopt the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, at any rate a Scottish Grand Committee had been very successful before. Some of them would like to see the new Scottish Grand Committee entirely composed of Scottish Members; but for himself, being what was described as half English, he had no objection to seeing fifteen Members from England added. He would be very glad to have the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone among them, for doubtless they would then proceed with greater rapidity. He hoped they would come to a decision on the matter before Easter, and that such Bills as the Scottish Education Bill and the Small Land Holders Bill would be sent to the Scottish Grand Committee. It was said that the latter Bill was so very important that it might be applied to England. Well, they did not oppose its being applied to England. But they proposed to get the Bill for Scotland first, and leave the other to follow. He sincerely hoped that these four Grand Committees would be set up, one to deal exclusively with Scottish affairs. It would be of advantage to the House, and especially of advantage to Scotland, in which he was more deeply interested than in England. It was essentially to the advantage of Scotland that Scottish measures should be thoroughly thrashed out in a Grand Committee upstairs.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said the Prime Minister was not altogether to be congratulated on the amount of support which his proposals had received up to the present time; and he did not think that he hon. Member who had just sat down had helped the case, because he had frankly indicated that, while he entertained great hopes in regard to these new Resolutions, he preferred that of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. The hon. Member must be very sanguine to indulge in such rash hopes in regard to these Resolutions, considering, whatever might be said of them, that they were exactly the reverse of the suggestions made by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, and, as indicated by him, were not in the direction likely to lead to devolution of the business of the House. The ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer had told them that he had remedies of his own which he would have been glad to see adopted; and, like him, he had himself, frequently in private discussions with hon. Members opposite, suggested his right hon. friend's plan as the best way to secure a better division of Parliamentary business and a more rapid performance of Parliamentary work. He was bound to say that he had never heard from anyone on the other side of the House the suggestion now to be found in these Resolutions, that work which properly belonged to the House should be sent to a series of Committees upstairs. He had heard the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy advocate the remedy which they had suggested, but he had never heard him suggest that the remedy should take the form of Grand Committees, by which the work should be done. His right hon. friend the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would like to see a business Committee appointed, one of whose duties would be to deal with the closure by compartments system. He believed that was the natural and proper corollary of the method of closure by compartments. If that proposal were adopted, he believed that it would not only immensely shorten the period of debates, but, almost of necessity, remove the feeling of friction and soreness which arose when the method was adopted by the Government. It would shorten debates for this reason—that it too frequently happened that debates in Committee were allowed to go on for a very considerable time before the Government made up their minds that the time had arrived for closure by compartments. It followed that the greater part of the earlier time taken up by the debate was wasted, and that an immense amount of the discussion was upon portions of the Bill which were not of the same interest as later portions, and then, when closure by compartments was applied, annoyance was naturally caused by the insufficient time given to the more important points of the measure under discussion. If the suggestion made by his right hon. friend were adopted, it would not only economise time, but would remove the feeling of bitterness which was sometimes aroused under existing conditions, and would do a great deal more than these Resolutions were likely to do to facilitate the discharge of the business of the House. But he went still further, because it would be possible for such a Committee as his right hon. friend suggested to decide which Bills should remain in the House, and which should go to a Committee upstairs. The right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division had said of him that he would not be able adversely to criticise the business done by the Grand Committees, especially when that business was properly conducted by those who presided, and by those who were responsible for the Bill under discussion. Certainly, he had had considerable experience of the work in Grand Committees, and either as Minister in charge of Bills, or as a private Member, he had probably sat on more Grand Committees than most Members of the House. If Bills were of the right kind, and if the Committee was kept properly in hand, he believed they could not possibly have a more businesslike or a more satisfactory tribunal for the work. But it all depended upon those two conditions, and one of those conditions would be rendered impossible if the present proposals were adopted. The right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division had told them that there was to be found in support of those proposals a wonderful array of authority, and he had quoted authorities going back to a distant time. It had more than once occurred that hon. Members opposite, when authorities going far back were cited, had looked with some contempt on those musty records. If the right hon. Gentleman was right, as he undoubtedly was, in regard to the array of authority in support of these proposals, on the other hand, they who were opposed to them believing that if carried they would destroy the authority and power of the House, and involve a complete revolution of the House of Commons, could find in support of their view authority, not drawn from the distant past, but from comparatively recent times, from Gentlemen now sitting on the Treasury Bench. In the debate on the Aliens Bill, which was in charge of his right hon. friend the ex-Home Secretary, there was hardly a man on that bench, from the Prime Minister downwards, who did not adopt, in unmistakable terms, the views which the Opposition were at present urging. They admitted that Grand Committees were admirable institutions for the discharge of certain work, but contended that their success was almost entirely dependent on the kind of Bills sent up to them. Before passing to the Resolutions he wanted to say a word or two about the amendments of the existing system, which, be believed, would give the House more time and facilitate its work. He believed that they might do great good by largely extending the Provisional Order system. There was a kind of legislation which sometimes led, for purely local reasons, to prolonged debate, and that invariably occurred in cases which might be dealt with if the Provisional Order system were extended to private Bills. There appeared in private Bills provisions which, if they had been tested and examined as were Provisional Orders, would have been rigidly excluded. His right hon. friend had spoken with reference to the Scottish Grand Committee. Scotland had been specially favoured in the arrangements made by the House. Scotland had obtained a system of procedure for her private Bills devised by the late Government, of which he had the honour to be a Member. That plan had worked with complete success, and it might with enormous advantage be extended to the rest of the United Kingdom. He was not sure whether it would not be possible, with perfect safety to the constitutional rights of Parliament, for that tribunal to do even more work than at present. But all these things found no place in the Prime Minister's proposals. What they were now called upon to consider was a radical change in the method of doing the work of the House. They were asked to send to Grand Committees Bills introduced by the Government, and there was a very slight limitation as to what Bills should go upstairs—a limitation so small that he did not think it necessary to refer to it. All the great Bills which the Government introduced, if these Resolutions were adopted, would pass from the House to the Committee stage upstairs. [No."] Yes, they would.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): We do not say that all Bills shall be sent. The House has got its veto.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not quite follow. The House had its veto; would the right hon. Gentleman deny that if the proposal of the Prime Minister were adopted, it would place in the hands of the Government of the day power to send upstairs all Bills except those excluded by the Order.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: That is the power that it has at the present time.

MR. WALTER LONG denied that that was so. The right hon. Gentleman was not quite fair when he said the House had the power of veto. If they had that power now, why should this Standing Order be proposed? The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that no Government had even attempted to send upstairs to Grand Committees Bills of the first importance containing matters in which they were controversially concerned. Therefore, it was not quite correct to say that the Government had that power now. It seemed to him, from their Resolutions, that the intention of the Government was that when a Bill had been read a second time, unless it came within the two subsections, it should pass to a Grand Committee upstairs if the House did not decide otherwise. If there was power to send all Bills to the Grand Committees upstairs, one saw that a temptation was offered which no Government was likely to be able to resist; nor was it likely that the majority who supported the Government, knowing that they had the power to send Bills upstairs, and knowing the demand made upon the time of Parliament and upon their own time, would fail in aiding the Government, and the result would be that all those Bills which had hitherto been considered in the House of Commons would be sent to the Grand Committees upstairs. The Prime Minister the other day had dealt with the figures given by the Leader of the Opposition before the Committee which inquired into this subject. His right hon. friend had taken the number of Members of the House, and the number of Grand Committees and Select Committees etc., and the Prime Minister had sought to show that his right hon. friend had exaggerated the demand made upon the time of Members. He ventured to say that his right hon. friend had not exaggerated at all. The Prime Minister had forgotten altogether to exclude from his calculations the large body of Members, he believed over 100, who belonged to the Bar, and many of whom could not attend their professional duties in the Courts if they had to attend the proposed Committees. Then there were in the House business men who were certainly not the least valuable or capable Members of that assembly. How was it possible for them to be in attendance on the Grand Committee in the morning and in the House in the afternoon and evening, if they were to give the smallest attention to their own affairs? Then there were private Members, for whom an hon. Gentleman opposite had pleaded with eloquence and force the other evening, when he said that many of them had important and necessary work of their own, which they could not neglect; and how would it be possible for them to attend Grand Committees in the morning, and the House in the afternoon and evening, and at the same time attend to their own duties as ordinary citizens? It was impossible. He himself had no calls of that nature on his time, but he had, to the best of his ability, been a hard working Member of the House of Commons for nearly thirty years, and he could safely say that if a man did his duty by the work of the House, if he tried to make himself familiar with what was going on in the country, he would find enough to occupy his time from morning to evening. It would be extremely difficult for him to do that work efficiently, if in addition he had to be in Committee from half-past eleven in the morning, and in the House later in the day. He had himself sat on Select Committees and private Bill Committees which had lasted four weeks; and he had the honour at one time of being the Chairman of the Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee which sat into July. The Prime Minister and others had forgotten, he thought, the time at which very important work would have to be considered in Grand Committee. They talked as if the work could be spread over the whole session and 600 Members would be available for work to be divided up amongst them, from the meeting of Parliament in February to the rising of Parliament in August. They were proposing that Bills of importance, great controversial measures, should be sent to Committees upstairs. When would those measures be available for Committees upstairs; how many had they sent to the Committees already in existence? How many Bills were ready to go to the Select Committees? How many Select Committees had been appointed? The right hon. Gentleman must know that the time when it was almost impossible to get Members to serve on these various Committees was not March or April when the amount of Committee work was comparatively small, but in May and June when the work was excessively heavy, and Committees sat from day to day. He had himself sat five days in the week, and had had to ask the leave of the House to sit. In no other way could they get through the work; and some of them were serving on two Committees at the same time, besides being on the Grand Committee. Was it possible to add the fresh burden which the Government proposed, and even hope to get for the consideration of Parliamentary work that calm frame of mind and that strength of body which were necessary if the work was to be well done? He ventured to say that the proposal was absolutely impossible. The hon. Member who spoke the other day on behalf of the Committee of Selection based his conclusions largely on the present condition of the House. He thought the hon. Gentleman had forgotten that the present House was largely composed of new Members. Many of them were young in Parliamentary age, and young in experience of Parliamentary work. Let them wait until they had had three or four weeks experience in summer of a hot Committee room; until they were wanted to form a quorum on another committee; until they had had six weeks of a keenly contested Bill, with a long array of counsel—all in the hot days, and all to be done before they were called upon to attend in the House for the afternoon and evening. Any Member who had not been on a Committee could see what was happening when he came down to the House in the afternoon. What did he see? He saw Member after Member walking towards him from the House. If he asked why they were going when the House was just beginning, the answer was that they had been on a Committee since eleven o'clock, that they were tired to death, and that they must go away and get some fresh air. Yet they were going to ask Members to sit on four Grand Committees instead of two, in addition to their work in the House, and they imagined that in that way they were going not only to promote business, but enhance the harmony of their proceedings. Not only would Members be jaded physically, but it was not in the least probable that they would come to the consideration of important business with that mental vigour which was so necessary if the discussions were to be productive of really valuable legislation. The right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division had forgotten one part of the question which he would like the House to consider. He was speaking as one who had served for a great many years in public departments. The one advantage which they derived from Grand Committees was the presence not only of members of the Government, but of permanent officials at the right hand of Ministers ready to be consulted at any moment with a view to assisting the Committee to arrive at a decision in regard to Amendments. Those permanent officials had a hard task already to get through the work of their Departments. Many of them were heavily overworked, and were unable to leave their offices until late at night. Yet they were to be called upon in the morning when the work of the Department was at its greatest pressure, and instead of having two sets of these permanent officials for Grand Committees they would require four for Committees which would sit for weeks together. Was that a way to avoid arrears of departmental work? He ventured to say that if the system were adopted it would strike a heavy blow at the administration of the various Departments, which would very soon be felt in the House, whatever other results might flow from these Resolutions. Let them take the Local Government Board, the Home Office, and the Board of Trade. It frequently happened that they had two or three Bills, produced by the heads of those departments, which they desired to have properly discussed, and which would employ the permanent officials, who were also to attend the Grand Committees. The proposal was practically impossible. If that were true of ordinary Members of Parliament and of permanent officials, how much more true would it be of the Law Officers of the

Crown. Hardly a Bill of great importance went upstairs which did not require the presence of the Law Officers. On the Land Tenure Bill in Grand Committee last year it was absolutely impossible to secure the attendance of a Law Officer. The Attorney-General was absent through illness, and the Solicitor-General had other demands upon him. When the Bill came down to the House, how different was the effect. The Law Officer was present, and he was bound to admit that the arguments and criticisms which had been offered in Committee were well founded. Yet they were going to introduce a system for the consideration of Bills in Committee when they knew, from their experience of the Land Tenure Bill, that such consideration could not be complete, and they were going to trust to a subsequent stage to correct all mistakes made upstairs. If that was the foundation of the proposal, all he could say was that it rested on a very insecure basis indeed. His noble friend had just now expressed the view that the real remedy lay in some relaxation of the Party system. In Grand Committee they found a complete relaxation of the Party system, and the present Government, he thought, would not be quite so confident in making these proposals if it was not for the fact that they had got so large a majority behind them that they could to a large extent disregard considerations which a Government with a smaller majority would be bound to bear in mind. But even this Government with its overwhelming majority had experience of the difficulty of getting Bills through Grand Committee. He had spoken of the Land Tenure Bill. It was not the fault of the Member of the Government representing the Agricultural Department that changes were made in it upstairs; the Grand Committee decided against him, and what was the result? When the Bill came downstairs the Government had to employ all their force to alter the measure. Surely the Government were not going to send their important Bills to Committees upstairs, knowing that the work would have to be done again on Report! If they did they would double or treble the work which had to be done on the Report stage. Anybody who was familiar with the way in which work was done in the House must know perfectly well how frequently it happened in Committee on a Bill that some point suddenly arose which had not been foreseen by the Minister in charge or by the Government. It produced a great deal of feeling in the House of Commons, and on the part of the supporters of the Government, and of the particular measure. All of a sudden it became evident that unless something was done there would be a risk of the Bill being defeated. What happened? The Minister in charge of the Bill did his best, and there was a hurried consultation, frequently on the front bench, but sometimes in the room of the Leader of the House. The Minister came back to the House, and speaking with the authority which he could only possess after consulting his colleagues, intimated the decision at which the Government had arrived. The announcement having been made the Government stood or fell by it. How was that going to be done when a Bill was before the Grand Committees? The Minister in charge could not consult his colleagues. If he were beaten in the Grand Committee were the Government going to accept that defeat as if it had occurred in the House? Even with this Government, strong as it was, such a case had occurred twice in different forms. It occurred in connection with the Land Tenure Bill when a certain decision was announced. Great consternation arose, and a Cabinet Minister was put up to drive home the arguments and to do his best to smooth the troubled waters. That was not sufficient, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, then the Leader of the House, was sent for, and the right hon. Gentleman announced definitely that the Government had considered the question in all its bearings, and called upon the supporters of the Government to support the decision at which they had arrived. That could not be done in Grand Committee. Another case which proved the importance of this point arose on the Workmen's Compensation Bill. The Minister in charge of the Bill refused to accept an Amendment to include domestic servants. A large number of Members took exception to that course and determined that they should be included. The head of the Government afterwards came to the

House, threw over his colleagues, and agreed to accept the Amendment as the result of the expression of opinion which had taken place. If controversial legislation of that kind was sent to the Grand Committees, such cases were certain to arise. Were they going to alter the present system and say that there was to be no consultation, and that all the points were to be considered on Report after the Cabinet had been consulted? If that was the case it meant that the machinery would be wholly insufficient for the purpose to which they were applying it. He thought they ought to know what steps the Government proposed to take in order to meet the particular case which he had described, and also whether the Government, having put forth all their strength in the Grand Committee, would accept a defeat there in the same way as if it had occurred on the floor of the House. If not, they were making one of the greatest changes that had ever been made in the procedure of the House. Everybody knew that on the Committee stage difficulties arose which led to complete changes in a Bill. Those alterations, whether good or bad, were often of a drastic character, but in a Grand Committee upstairs there would not be the same opportunities for freedom of discussion. No communication had been made regarding what the Government proposed to do as to giving publicity to the proceedings upstairs. He was not sure but that the Government would be compelled to adopt some means of rendering what took place in the Grand Committees as fully open to the public as the proceedings in the House itself. He was not quite sure whether the record of the Grand Committees would remain as good as it was at present. He was not sure that, once it became known that speeches delivered upstairs would be reported fully with all the glories which were supposed by some people to attend the publication of their utterances, the opinion which his hon. friends opposite entertained in regard to the work hitherto done by the Grand Committees would remain the same; but if that change was to be made it would be little short of a scandal if important proceedings in Committee which ought to be in the possession of those outside the House, who were interested in what went on there, were not reported. The existing conditions under which the work was done were, he thought, quite sufficient for the kind of work to be performed. His right hon. friend the Member for the Rushcliffe Division, who spoke with authority on this subject, said in 1904 that Parliament must be very careful indeed as to the kind of Bills which were sent to the Committees, and that the Aliens Bill was an unsuitable one to be sent to a Grand Committee.

*MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I was speaking of the Committees as they stood with their procedure at that time. The procedure in the Committees has been altered.

MR. WALTER LONG said he understood from what his right hon. friend had now said that the whole merit of these proposals was to be found, not in the transfer of business, not in devolution, not in anything of that kind, but in the conferring upon the Chairman of the Grand Committees of the power to apply the closure.

*MR. ELLIS said that was not his opinion at all.

MR. WALTER LONG said that one of the proposed changes was to have four instead of two Grand Committees, and the other was to enable the Chairman of the Grand Committee to apply the closure. There was no other change in the procedure or constitution of the Committees. The Prime Minister had expressed himself in favour of Bills being discussed with the greatest publicity and in the fullest way The right hon. Gentleman had also expressed the opinion that every Member, whether he was a trade Member or a lawyer, should have an opportunity of expressing his opinion on measures. That was the opinion which the Members of the Opposition held now. This was not only the greatest change which had ever been made in the procedure of the House, but it deprived Members of the opportunity of hearing, if they chose, the debate on a Bill. A Member might not desire to take part in a debate, but he had a right to know what was going on. If all these Bills were to be referred to the various Standing Committees, not only lawyers but others would be prevented from taking part in the debates. He knew that lawyers were not the most popular Members of that assembly, but he believed that they would get on very badly without them. In the Committee stage they brought to the consideration of Bills trained minds and experience which they had gathered over long periods of years. They would not be able to attend the sittings of the Grand Committees at 11 o'clock in the forenoon and remain in attendance at the House during the afternoon and evening. The proposed change was not only revolutionary but thoroughly bad in its character, being destructive of what had hitherto been one of the best parts of the work of Parliament. He did not believe it would give more time or facilitate the progress of business. It would lead to prolonged debates on the Report stage; the Report stage would be necessarily protracted, for they would have to fill up the blanks which were always left when they were discussing big measures in Committee. They would have to correct the blunders which were made in Committee upstairs. There was room for considerable improvement in procedure, but be believed the proposals now made would deprive large bodies of private Members of the opportunity of taking part in the debates on Bills and conceal from the general public some of the most important work Parliament had to do.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER (Sir HENRY FOWLER, Wolverhampton, E.) said that the right hon. Gentleman had drawn a very lurid description of what was going to happen in the future. He had given two illustrations as to the working of the system, but they were drawn from two rather controversial Bills which were before the House during the last session of Parliament, and which were sent to Grand Committees; but the most valuable results were obtained on the Report stage in the House.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was arguing, not in respect of the two Bills which had been sent to Grand Committees, but in respect of other greater measures which might be sent to Grand Committees.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said that the right hon. Gentleman and the noble Lord the Member for Marylebone, had ignored the history of the question. According to the views of the right hon. Gentleman this was an entirely novel method of procedure, and there was no authority for it. As a matter of fact, however, the subject had been discussed and considered by eminent authorities on procedure, of different shades of political opinion, and all having special claims on the consideration of the House. He referred to the Hartington Committee. But long before the appointment of that Committee Sir Erskine May raised the question of Grand Committees in 1854; next there were the Committees of Sir John Pakington, Sir James Graham, Sir Stafford Northcote, and Lord Hartington's Committee in 1886. The last-named Committee consisted of thirty-three able and experienced Members, men who had been Cabinet Ministers, great Party leaders, men who were proud of the House of Commons and who were held in deservedly high respect by the House. That Committee, with three dissentients, recommended the system which was practically that of the Government. The Members included Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Bright, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Dillwyn, Sir J. Fergusson, Sir W. Hart Dyke, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. Goschen, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Healy, Sir John Mowbray, Mr. Raikes, Mr. W. H. Smith, Mr. Stanhope, and Mr. Whitbread, and several other distinguished men. They could not cast the opinion of all these men behind them and say that they did not know what they were talking about. The Committee sat for three months, was always fully attended, and most of the divisions showed very large majorities. The first Resolution of the Committee proposed—

> "That every public Bill, after the second reading, except a Bill originating in Committee of Ways and Means, or a Bill for the confirmation of any Provisional Order, unless the House shall otherwise order, shall be referred to a Standing Committee of this House."

The division on that vital question was in the proportion of twenty-one to five, and that twenty-one included nearly every one of the most distinguished and competent Members of the House. The Government scheme was based practically on the recommendations of that Committee.

They had further had advantage of the advice of many competent gentlemen—notably the present Leader of the Opposition, who gave the Committee most valuable assistance. The right hon. Gentlemen seemed to imagine that the Government intended that every Bill should go upstairs. But the words of the Prime Minister were—

> "I can assure you that this is the spirit and intention of the Government in proposing this rule: they have no intention of sending any Bill upstairs to which there would be any reasonable objection."

It was sometimes asked, "Why not appoint an independent business committee?" The House would not find the Government indisposed to entertain that suggestion. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham raised the question many years ago, and it had been suggested that the House should follow the example of the United States Congress and appoint a body similar to their Rules Committee. But the Rules Committee of Congress possessed a power which he should be sorry to see used by any Committee of the House of Commons, for they settled everything as to the precedence and procedure in that Assembly. There was a great deal to be said, however, for an independent authority to settle procedure in the various stages of Bills. The great difficulty would be to fix on the body that should select the Committee and secure their independence and see that minorities were duly represented. The "guillotine" was hateful, but it was a necessity that the Government should possess it, and should use it if they meant to transact business. The system of Grand Committees had been in use for seventeen years, and he thought that the Grand Committees had done remarkably good work; he did not think there had been that incompetence and blundering which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had just described.

MR. WALTER LONG said that he entirely shared the views of the right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division as to the good work which the Grand Committees had done.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said he understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that the Grand Committees had been rather ineffective bodies. He would like to hear the Leader of the Opposition say how he proposed to cope with the difficulties of passing legislation by means of the present machinery of the House. This proposal was brought forward in the interest of the House, and he himself felt as strongly as any Member that the manner in which public time was wasted was not creditable to them. He did not think that the demand upon the time of public men in the House was very excessive, or that a pedestrian who crossed over Westminster Bridge of an afternoon and saw how hon. Members were engaged on a certain spot would have any idea that a Member of the House of Commons was usually overworked either in the House or upstairs. They had the very great advantage that when they did not want to hear a man they could go out, and it was a privilege of which Members of the House frequently availed themselves. The extra Committee which was to be appointed to deal with Scottish business would not only facilitate business, but save the time of Members of the House. Leaving aside heroics, was it not the fact that the overwhelming majority of the Members of the House knew nothing about Scottish politics, and indeed hardly understood the language in which they were expressed? Was it not the fact that every word of Scottish law differed from English law? The two things were quite distinct, and, as he had mentioned, they had Bills which dealt with Scottish affairs purely, notably the Burghs Police Bill. That was dealt with in a Committee upstairs. That Bill, which contained a large number of clauses, was discussed in Committee upstairs and discussed very much better in a Committee mainly consisting of Scottish Members than it could be discussed across the floor of the House in the course of an hour or two where the majority knew nothing about Scottish business. What rational objection could be raised to getting Scottish business done in that way and getting rid of a complaint of the Scottish people that their legislation was pushed aside by English business and that to that extent they were injured? It had been said there was no such provision for England, but English business prevented everything and no injury was done to England. Could the right hon. Gentleman point out any English business which had been prevented from being accomplished by Scottish votes?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) instanced the Parish Councils Bill in which the majority was largely composed of Scottish and Irish Members against the majority of the English Members present.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said his memory did not go back to the discussions and divisions which took place, but he did not think the right hon. Gentleman was correct, because the Scottish Members knew they were to have their own Bill the next year and they had it.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that was his point—that the majority of English Members voting on the English Bill were out-voted by the minority of English Members voting with the Scottish and Irish. The right hon. Gentleman would remember that the Government of that day never had a majority of more than forty with the Scottish and Irish Members voting with them. It was clear, therefore, that in any Party division on an English Bill the majority must have been made up of Scottish and Irish Members.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said that a very large section of the Conservative Party also voted with the Government, so it was by no means clear that the wish of English Members was defeated. At any rate, the present system was working badly, and the House was in a congested state and its machinery was being clogged up and stopped in an immense number of ways. Those arguments which did not appeal to reason, which became the means of obstruction, had greater play in the Committee stage than at any other stage of a measure. In other words, the details of many measures were far better discussed, not in a Committee of the Whole House, but in a Committee consisting of a limited number of Members upstairs. The House itself would under the present proposal reserve to itself the fullest and amplest control. It had been suggested that the Report stage ought to be limited, as there was a great deal of time wasted upon it, and that no Amendment should be moved at that stage except by a Minister of the Crown or by the Member in charge of the Bill. The Government proposed no limitations of that sort, but, of course, upon that stage no hon. Member could speak twice. He wished that rule could be more widely applied. Of course, this change was tentative, as all such changes must be, but the Government repudiated the idea of applying the rule to any great measure of the session. One hon. Gentleman opposite had said that no Government could carry more than one great measure in a session, and that it would be a monstrous thing to send a measure of that sort upstairs. A measure upon which the power of the Government depended ought not to be sent upstairs, but in the wear and tear of the Parliamentary struggle at present much minor legislation had to be abandoned, because there was not time in which to pass it. The Government wanted to give the House the opportunity of passing such Bills, and proposed to give the Chairman of the Committee upstairs larger powers than he at present possessed. There was nothing startling or revolutionary in these proposals, and he thought the House would be well advised to give them a general assent, with a view of seeing how they would work.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had appealed to the House to conduct the debate upon non-Party lines, and the Prime Minister had made a similar appeal, and he thought the discussion had been carried on on those lines, with a view to seeing if they could not make the machinery of the House work more smoothly in order to get through the business. The right hon. Gentleman had alluded to the Hartington Committee. That Committee presented a very important Report, which revolutionised the procedure of the House twenty years ago under Mr. Gladstone; and the proposals of the Government were equally revolutionary. The right hon. Gentleman also said that the object of the change was to deal with non-contentious business; but he would like to ask him what he meant by the words. If there was any reasonable objection to a Bill would it be sent to a Committee upstairs? His great objection was not to the sending up of departmental and uncontentious Bills, but to the sending up of Bills on which there was great contention, and which might lead to friction between the two parties. Where that class of Bill had been sent up the procedure of Grand Committees had not been a success. The objection that the Government might lose control over their Bill was a most important one, because that was a thing that had happened more than once. They lost control over the Workmen's Compensation Bill last year. In the Committee on that Bill they were defeated three times—outvoted by their own side. The eloquent speeches of the Solicitor-General, the Home Secretary, and the Under-Secretary were of no avail, and they were defeated. What was to happen in the future? Were the Government to take their defeats in Committee more seriously? Were they to resign on defeat or what were they to do? How was the new principle going to act in practice? Could Ministers with their arduous duties in their offices afford to spend their mornings in Grand Committee? He was afraid it would be found that they could not. He thought that it would not be wise to found too great an expectation on the desire of hon. Members to work hard on these Committees, because when a man had served on a Committee from 11.30 to three o'clock, he was not fit to begin work again in the House. He thought the rules ought to be so drawn that a Member could devote his time to the business he took most interest in. It was not fair to expect a man to sit in a Committee all day, and then expect him to work in the House in the evening. Then again the quorum of a Committee was twenty, and it was well known that on many occasions Committees had to wait twenty minutes or half an hour before there was a quorum. Under this new rule were they going to get sufficient Members to form a quorum? It was often difficult enough to do now, but he thought in the future the difficulty would increase. Then as to the Government's power to manage their legislation in Grand Committee. If it happened that they lost control of a Bill, as was the case in the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and they had to accept Amendments, they had either to abide by the decision of the Committee, or reverse its decision on the Report stage, which would be very much resented by the members of the Committee. He thought the true remedy was to shorten the Report stage, by allowing only Amendments to be moved in regard to alterations which had taken place in Committee, or Amendments moved by the promoters of the Bill. Such a system would much shorten the proceedings in the House, and would make the Report stage what it should be, namely, the maturing stage of a Bill after it had been considered in the Grand Committee. He hoped the Prime Minister, having appealed to the House to consider this proposal in a non-Party spirit, would accept Amendments which would be moved from the Opposition side of the House with the sole object of improving the Resolution and making more efficient the machinery of the House.

*MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said from what the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this proposal had said it was perfectly apparent that the proposals of the Government were based on the highest constitutional authority. No names had ever been read out in the House that carried more weight than the names of the Hartington Committee, and they made even stronger recommendations than those of the Government. He was surprised to hear the right hon. Member for South Dublin take so general a view of the work done by Grand Committees, because the right hon. Gentleman himself had taken a very active part in the work of Grand Committees, and there were few, if any, Members of the House who understood the work done there better than the right hon. Gentleman. If it was desired to save time and get rid of Party spirit, and to have practical work done, that should be looked for in a Grand Committee rather than in Committee of the Whole House. What happened in the case of the Workmen's Compensation Bill was exceptional, principally because the members of the Committee were new to their work. On the whole he believed the work done as it was done that morning in a Committee upstairs was certainly done in less time than it would take in a Committee of the Whole House. The noble Lord the hon. Member for Marylebone, who had referred to the patriotism of England, did not do justice to the weight that English opinion had in the legislation passed for Ireland, and if, in exceptional cases, Irish and Scottish opinion affected the legislation for England, the weight of that opinion was not to be compared with the influence exerted by England over the legislation of Ireland and Scotland. He therefore did not think that English Members, if these rules passed, could grudge Scotland the Committee if it was a success. It would not prevent English Bills being referred to an English Committee. During the twenty years he had been in the House he had taken an interest in Imperial and Scottish legislation, but he confessed he did not take much interest in English, Irish, or Welsh legislation. One of the trials of a private Member was to work on a Committee and in the House afterwards; but a greater trial to him was to wait about the House for something to turn up in which he was interested; and it was because the proposal before the House was to distribute the work better, and to apply Members to work in which they were interested, that he thought it would have a very important effect upon Members in increasing their interest in subjects which came before the House. Older Members could fill up their time when in attendance, but it was a very bad training for the young Member to find himself without work to do, and often to find the time of the House taken up with work in which he himself had no direct interest. It was impossible to suppose that a Member from one division of the United Kingdom could, as a rule, take the same interest in work appertaining to other divisions as he took in matters affecting his own division. The Scottish Committee which it was proposed to set up under these rules was one for which Scottish Members had long asked. At present, for want of some means of attending to the business of Scotland, they were governed really by an administrative bureaucracy who were under very little supervision; and, if Scottish administration and Scottish legislation were brought more directly under the supervision of Scottish representatives, they would be able to breathe more life into that administration. English Members should not fail to remember that they were in London, with all their administrative departments around them; they could thus obtain a much greater hold of them, and infuse much more vigour into them, than was possible in the case of Scottish Members, whose departments were situated in Edinburgh. For many years Scottish education, and other details of Scottish business, had never come before the House at all, and in the consideration of Scottish Bills they were told, on a Saturday afternoon or at some other limited period, that they were either to take them or leave them. The Scottish Grand Committee would get them out of that difficulty, and he was heartily grateful to the Government for their proposal. There had been some discussion as to the kind of Bills which should be considered in Committee of the Whole House, and there might also be a question raised with regard to whether all the Bills brought in for Scotland should be referred to that Committee. He agreed that there were Bills which ought not to go upstairs, but ought to be considered in Committee of the Whole House. Although he approved of the Scottish Committee, he would prefer that it should be composed of all Scottish Members, without the addition of Members from other divisions of the United Kingdom. Most Scottish Bills, whether dealing with education or with matters connected with the Church or many other subjects, were far better dealt with by Scottish Members alone. But again there were Bills which ought to be considered in Committee of the Whole House, and he thought there might be some cases in which Bills, brought in even for Scotland, might be better considered by a Committee of representatives of the Whole House than by Scottish Members alone. He referred to such Bills, for instance, as effected great reversals in social and economic policy. Those he thought would be better dealt with by a Grand Committee upstairs, representative of the Whole House—Bills unlikely to be restricted to one division of the United Kingdom. Let them take, for instance, a Bill the principle of which he heartily supported, namely, the taxation of land values. That might be brought in either for England or for Scotland; but he thought that was a class of measure which could be far better considered in a Committee representative of the Whole House than in a Committee representative of one division of the United Kingdom. A Bill involving large public grants was another class of Bill which should not be considered by a Committee representing any one nationality, as for example the Irish Land Purchase Bill. He was not speaking from the national point of view; he was dealing with the subject from the point of view of public business. He was aware that any one coming from the Celtic fringe would be liable to be under suspicion where any question of nationality might be involved; at any rate he was dealing with the whole question, and he wanted efficient conduct of Parliamentary business. Then a Bill might be brought in dealing with the affairs of a section of the country with which the Parliamentary representation was hardly competent to deal. For example, a Bill might be brought in dealing with agriculture for Scotland, at a time when the Parliamentary representation was almost entirely urban. In that case he thought the Committee would be strengthened by the presence of such an hon. Member as the representative of South Molton or his hon. friend who represented the tenant farmers of this country, as well as the presence of others versed in the practical affairs of agriculture. Under such conditions Bills of that character would be much better discussed by a Committee representative of the Whole House than by a Committee composed exclusively of Scottish Members. But as he had said, such Bills were exceptional, and for ordinary Scottish Bills he believed it would be better to have the Committee composed entirely of Scottish Members. With that slight exception the proposal would have his most hearty support, and he thought that hon. Members who opposed would find that they would have to discover some alternative method to the conditions under which the work of the House was done at present. As had been pointed out, in foreign Assemblies and at Washington much of the work was done by Committees. At Washington they had an extremely efficient system of Committees by which the work was carried on. That system was not wholly applicable to us; but no one who had seen that system at work could fail to understand the necessity of supporting such a modified scheme as that which was now proposed. He was certain that there was no country in the world where public business was conducted on a system better calculated to prevent any legislation taking place at all than was the case here; they had been only too long in trying to find a solution of the problem, and therefore he trusted that the very moderate proposals of the Government would be put in force with the least possible delay.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said he had very little to say on this question, for, the evidence he gave last year being on record, it was not necessary to repeat at length what he then stated. He wished to say, however, that nothing he had heard said in defence of this proposed Standing Order seemed to him to get rid of any of the objections which on that occasion, before the Select Committee, he had ventured to urge. Right hon. Gentlemen, however, had full right to make what use they could of what they called the principle of authority. But since the finding of the Committee of 1886 an experience of no less than twenty years had shown that even under the existing Standing Orders Committees sat shorter hours than they would have to sit under the proposed new Standing Order; there were at present fewer Committees to be manned; and although there was some kind of discrimination between Bills sent up to such Committees, yet they even now found great difficulty in obtaining a representative and authoritative attendance of Members. He gave before the Committee last year some figures which ought to have been considered sufficiently striking. At all events they showed that on Bills dealing with exceedingly important matters, the divisions by which they were decided had only a small number of Members taking part in them. Sometimes as few as thirty, and seldom more than fifty, Members voted. If they came to think, he thought they would see that that difficulty was not going to be got rid of by this proposal at all. They were going to have more Committees working, and they were going to send up indiscriminately more Bills to those Committees. Therefore the present difficulty would not only not be got rid of, but to a certain extent it would be aggravated. It was obvious that there were only two ways by which the attendance difficulty could be got over, and neither of those was dealt with in the proposed Standing Order. One was to diminish the number of Members composing the Standing Committees from eighty to sixty, or even fewer. It was obvious, however, that if they diminished the minimum number, they also very seriously diminished the authority of the Grand Committees with the House and with the public outside. The other alternative, and this was the alternative which the Government had not had the courage to adopt, was boldly to say that they were going to have four Committees, and that those four Committees should have power to operate simultaneously on four different Bills at once, by sitting in different rooms during the time of the ordinary evening sittings of the House. The fact that the Government shrank from that showed how dangerous were the logical conclusions by which alone their system could be tested. The difficulty of securing a sufficient attendance arose from the fact that they could not get the busy men who were engaged in professional or mercantile occupations, and he hoped the day would be far distant when the House of Commons would be composed of men who were not wanted anywhere else. The great difficulty they had always had was that if the Bills before them were of so non-controversial a character that they were considered safe to send to a Grand Committee, they did not attract a quorum. On the other hand, in the case of Bills sufficiently controversial to attract a quorum, the procedure of Grand Committee had not been a success. Under the proposed plan he foresaw great loss of time and labour, for, after all, the bottle-neck of the whole system would remain the Report stage in the House itself; because, assuming that the Committees were successful in respect to the actual quantity of their output, the greater would be the difficulty of running the necessary business through the narrow opening it had to pass at the Report. The Scottish Committee, he supposed, would deal with both Government and private Members' Bills and that Government business would have precedence. If that Committee were composed of none but Scottish Members it would be easy to work, under certain circumstances, so that it might run counter to the fundamental principle of the united Parliament, that the prevailing balance of opinion should, as in the whole House, prevail in the Committees for all parts of the area legislated for by the united Parliament. It would be possible for a Radical Scottish Committee to pass Radical measures even in a Conservative Parliament. No answer had yet been given to the question why, if there was to be a Scottish Committee, there should not be also an English Committee. The answer to that question was that with an English Committee the trend of legislation would be Conservative and Unionist. If this rule became operative, of course all Members of the House would do their best to make it a success in the interests of the House itself. At the same time, he did not think he would have done his duty if he had not, out of his experience, pointed out some of the difficulties which he conceived to be in the way. He thought it would add very greatly to the labours of Members of the professional and mercantile classes at a most inconvenient time of the day.

*MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) said it had been admitted in speeches made on both sides of the House that there were difficulties in this matter. It was stated by some that the supposed remedy would be the means of lessening the work in the House, but he, on the contrary, believed the work of the House would go on increasing in spite of this temporary palliative. He believed the proposed new procedure would add enormously to the work already placed on Parliament. In view of the difficulties that had been pointed out, he could only hope, not only that the matter would be discussed from a non-Party point of view, but that the right hon. Gentleman would give his attention from that point of view to the Amendments moved, when they came to be discussed, and let the House decide upon them without regard to any preconceived or partisan ideas. The right hon. Gentleman, when introducing this Motion, took as similes what took place in Continental Legislatures. He would have preferred if the right hon. Gentleman had gone to younger countries. In Australia, for instance, where the total population was less than that of Greater London, there were no less than five legislative Assemblies as well as a central Parliament; in the United States, with a population less than double that of the United Kingdom, there were fifty-three besides the central body of Congress. It was, he thought, upon the line of multiplying the legislative and administrative Assemblies or national councils in this country that the remedy could be found for the atrophy of the House of Commons which had been so universally admitted. With regard to the establishment of an English Committee the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer must have overlooked the fact, when he asked why such a Committee should not be appointed, that the noble Lord the Member for Marylebone had an Amendment on the Paper for the appointment of an English Committee of sixty Members. He himself shared that view, and he would like to see the matter carried to its logical conclusion by the appointment of such a Committee While he thought that particular care should be given to these recommendations he admitted that he regarded the question of a Scottish Committee as a prelude to a larger scheme of devolution. He hoped this Committee would be merely the forerunner of a Committee which would have power given to it to enable it to sit for a certain portion of the year in Scotland, and take its proper and rightful part in Scottish administration. With regard to the question of whether this Committee should be composed exclusively of Scottish Members, it would, in his opinion, be much easier, when setting up these new bodies, to add more Members to a small Committee than to take away Members from a large one, and he hoped the Government would, at any rate, in the first instance, appoint the Committee as such. It was instructive to contrast the words of Lord Seafield, the Lord Chancellor of Scotland 200 years ago, who was best remembered by posterity to his lasting discredit by the single sentence—

> "There's ane end of ane auld sang;"

and who, in closing the last session of the Scottish Estates that very day, the 25th of March, 1707, said—

> "The publick business of this session being now over, it is full time to put an end to it,"

with the words of the present Lord Chancellor, who, when in this House in 1888, said he thought it would be a very great calamity if a mixed Committee were appointed to discuss Scottish business, and further that he would not for a moment ask for a Committee, or even care to see one, which did not consist exclusively of Scottish Members; and again last week, speaking from the Woolsack, that devolution was as certain to come in this country as the sun to rise to-morrow. Scottish Members should consider this question very seriously before they voted upon it. He thanked the hon. and learned Member for Waterford for kindly promising to support them in carrying out their wishes. When he moved the Amendment of which he had given notice he would state what he believed to be the opinion and wishes of the Scottish people as to this proposal; wishes which would prove that Scotland, far from agreeing to the auld sang being ended, was determined that it should have a future as marked and as nationally characteristic as in the past. While, therefore, approving in the main of the proposals of the Government he reserved for himself liberty, from a non-partisan point of view, to take the course which he considered best fitted to protect the interests of Scotland in the matter.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster had admitted that the question of a Scottish Committee stood in an entirely different category from the other proposals embodied in the new procedure, and that it might be discussed apart from the question of expediting business. That was almost the only reference to this question which the right hon. Gentleman made in his weighty speech. The hon. Member for North

Aberdeen had made some admissions which would perhaps be found convenient on the Opposition side of the House in regard to that part of the Resolution which referred to Scotland. In the opinion of many people of weight in Scotland the proposal of the Government was not only dangerous, but was an insult to the country. It was a curious and not uninteresting fact that on the two hundredth anniversary of the day that saw the Union between England and Scotland they had to meet what he regarded as an insidious attempt to introduce a breach into that Union, a breach which would be a serious blow to Scotland first of all. The noble Lord beside him and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, while holding the same opinion as himself in regard to the inexpediency of the proposal as to Scotland, seemed to think it was a benefit which could not properly be denied to England. That was not the view which he and others took of the proposal. The hon. Member for the Leith Burghs had stated what he thought of the position of Scottish administration. He yielded to no one in earnestness for having the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies of Scotland maintained, and her traditions and history, and special national features fully defended, but this was not the means whereby that could be done. He agreed with the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs that Scottish interests were to be maintained by making certain that the administration of Scottish affairs was in the hands of men who understood them, men who were well known in Scotland, men who sympathised with her aspirations and were fully acquainted with her requirements. All the changes of recent years had been directed to attain this special point. The administration of Scotland was so arranged that it was in the hands of Scotsmen who were acquainted with the needs of the country. It was by maintaining the principle of having the administration in the right hands that this Parliament would maintain the right to govern Scotland. He wished that some of the Scottish Members had occasionally raised their voices much more powerfully in aid of his, when, as he believed, a wrong was done to Scotland by the Treasury. He believed it was not in the House that the danger to Scottish interests arose. He had no doubt that in the House justice would be dealt out to Scotland, but the danger lay in the recesses of the public offices, and it was in having the administration moulded on Scottish lines that they had their remedy. But what was this proposal to lead to? An indication had been given by the hon. Member for North Aberdeen. Did the hon. Member think it was likely to lead to the realisation of the proposals which he, with strength of conviction no doubt, had made known—proposals which involved the holding of a Parliament in the city of Perth? Did he think that the aspirations which he had so eloquently uttered on behalf of Scotland were likely to be brought about sooner by the present proposals?

MR. PIRIE: Certainly.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he was delighted to have that admission from the hon. Member. They now knew what was the bait held out by the Government to their supporters. He thought the hon. Member's Parliamentary foresight was hardly to be put on a level with that of the hon. Member for Waterford who declined to have a Committee of this sort for Ireland, having made a demand for a national Parliament for that country. The admission of the hon. Member for North Aberdeen gave at the same time a valuable warning which, whatever might be the impression made on the Ministerial benches, would be read by a wider audience throughout Scotland. It was for the advantage of Scotland that Scottish legislation should be dealt with not in a hole-and-corner way, but by the whole Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland. That was the vital principle involved in the Union, and with which the prosperity and just ambitions of Scotland were bound up. The Statute-book of Scotland was important enough to deserve and demand the full attention of the House, and if it delegated any part of its duties to any Committee, that Committee must reflect the colour and opinions of the House itself. Did Scotland always choose her representatives in proportion to their exact knowledge of, and close sympathy with, her life, and as citizens of her own community? Scotland was proud of such

Members as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for India, and others whom he could name, but surely they were chosen for other reasons. They were chosen because of the capacity and genius they possessed for Parliamentary life, and not because they were peculiarly of Scottish origin or acquainted with Scottish life. It was by choosing her representatives in that way that Scotland had shown her intention that Scottish affairs, in their larger aspect, were not to be dealt with in any hole-and-corner way. The Prime Minister had told them that in the Scottish Committee they should have the presence of the Secretary for Scotland and the Lord-Advocate. [AN HON. MEMBER: Two good men.] No doubt they would be excellent members of the Scottish Committee. But he was afraid their demands would not stop there. They must have the Prime Minister himself, the Secretary of State for War, the Secretary of State for India, the Financial Secretary to the War Office, and indeed half of the Government must devote themselves to the discussion of Scottish affairs. [AN HON. MEMBER: And the ex-Prime Minister.] The ex-Prime Minister was an instance of a man who knew something about Scotland and who would be excluded from this Committee. In Scotland they had hitherto held their place on a free field with no favour. They had met the Members even from the "predominant partner" itself on the larger lists, and they were prepared to meet them there again. They were not anxious to have their combats banished to a little pen of their own. They had hitherto moved along the broad stream of Imperial politics, and they did not wish to be sent down a narrow channel hemmed in by embankments of parochial narrowness and Party prejudice.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that Irish Members had no desire that a Committee should be set up to deal with Irish affairs. Therefore, he, for one, could look upon the question more or less in a spirit of detachment. As a disinterested person what struck him was that the proposed change in procedure, by which the vast majority of Bills which had hitherto been considered by the House as a whole were to be sent to a Grand Committee, was an enormous one. And yet how much interest had the proposition aroused amongst Members generally? There were 670 Members of the House of Commons. He doubted whether anybody had seen 670 Members present in the House. The only occasion on which it might have been said that they were—with few exceptions which could be accounted for—was on the eve of the division on the Irish Home Rule Bill. He had come into the House at Question time, had remained ever since, and had watched very carefully what was going on. He had quietly to himself counted the House and found that on several occasions there was a bare quorum present, and never more than 100. That meant that hon. Members took so little interest in the question under discussion that they would not even come in to listen to the many excellent speeches that had been made. It proved conclusively that there was nothing in the proposals of the revolutionary and destructive character of which they had heard so much from the Opposition side of the House. It did not appear that hon. Members, as a whole, shared the opinion of the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, who seemed to imagine that if Scotsmen had something to do with the management of their own affairs it would break up the Union. He was astonished to hear that the Union was threatened in some other direction. Everything which had taken place of late inside and outside the House was an attempt, especially on the part of Irish Members, to break up the Union. It was refreshing to find that the latest attempt to break up the Union came from Scotland; that on this two-hundredth anniversary of the Union between England and Scotland there was a daring conspiracy to break up the Union and establish in Scotland a free and independent nation—if there ever was such a thing. He had watched Scottish, Irish, and Welsh debates in the House, and from long experience he could say that when a Scottish Bill was going through Committee there was never anything like 5 per cent. of other than Scottish Members present. It was practically a Scottish Committee. Members would come to the door, and ask the whips in which lobby they were to vote, and they went away. So it was with some Irish

Bills. He remembered a discussion on an Irish Bill in 1903 when one would have imagined they were in an Irish House of Commons—not a single English Member being present, except perhaps a representative of the Government. So also with Welsh Bills. The new procedure would make no difference from that point of view; but it would enable Bills to be considered which would never go through the Committee stage of the Whole House. He thought the Scottish Members were exceedingly well advised in adopting the suggestion that Scottish Bills should be sent to a Committee upstairs largely composed of Scottish Members, and the Irish Members would be only too glad to give them their support in obtaining that small measure of control over their own affairs. The hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities had said that to send a Scottish Bill to a Grand Committee was to make its consideration a "hole-and-corner" affair. He considered that the right of Scottish Members to manage their own affairs was a "hole-and-corner" affair. That was not, he was sure, the view of the great majority of the people of Scotland. No Irishman could have failed to notice that many a Bill anxiously desired by the people of Scotland was killed for want of time for its discussion in the House. A great deal had been said by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin about the work to be performed by hon. Members in reference to the proposed new Committees. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he frequently met hon. Gentlemen at three o'clock in the afternoon after work in the Committee rooms upstairs driving home quite unable to face the added labour of attending in the House itself, and that it would be quite impossible for human nature to stand the double strain of Committee work and the work of the House. His own experience was that if it were not for occasional work upstairs, life in the Palace of Westminster would be absolutely intolerable. A great deal of nonsense was talked about the work of Members of Parliament. He might be rather disabusing the impression on the minds of constituents, but, after all, what was the enormous work which hon. Members were called upon to do? The average Member came down to the House at a quarter to three and listened to the Answers to Questions, which really was the most interesting time of the Parliamentary day. But directly Questions were over, what happened? Seven-eighths of the Members promptly got up and walked out of the House. And where did they go? As many as could find room in the smoking room—which he admitted was far too small—went there. Others went, in the summer time, to the terrace, or to the library, or elsewhere. But where was the work in that? Why, for the vast majority of Members there was absolutely no work! There was, if they liked, constant attendance which was tiresome; and if one attempted to leave the House he was arrested by one of the Whips, as if he were one of His Majesty's prisoners, and brought back. But there was no work for Members who wanted to take an intelligent interest in the business of the House. He maintained that the great majority of hon. Members would be very glad to gain the experience and information to be derived from attending those Grand Committees, but let it not be said that they could not stand the additional strain of taking part in them. He admitted that members of the Government were hard-worked, and it might be also said of some members of the Opposition when they made up their minds to have an all-night sitting. So far from an objection being made to these Grand Committees on the score of overwork, he believed that hon. Members would find a new interest in their lives by going on to those Committees, and would feel that they were actually doing the work which their constituents had sent them to Parliament to perform. From their special point of view, he thought the Nationalist Members would welcome the idea of giving the Scottish Members a Committee to deal with Scottish business.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that during the greater part of the evening the debate had turned not upon the new Standing Orders as a whole, but upon the proposal to establish a new Standing Committee for Scotland. He did not under-rate the immense importance of that change, but he proposed to reserve what he had to say upon it until they reached an Amendment in regard to it which was on the Paper, and not to follow the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down and the right hon. Gentleman opposite upon what was, he would not say the least important change that the Government proposed, but a change of less general interest than the proposals of the Government as a whole. Whether in its ultimate effect it might prove most generally important he did not know. The point he wished to discuss was the proposal which the Government had made to the House that they should abolish the Committee stage for the greater part of their work and that they should throw all the detailed elaboration of that portion of their work upon the Report stage. Let them brush away at once, as he thought they ought to brush away, the suggestion made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Rushcliffe Division and supported by the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Those two right hon. Gentlemen both spoke with great authority, but they attempted to lead the House of Commons to believe that the Government were reviving, and doing no more than reviving, the long series of recommendations made by the Hartington Committee of 1886. That suggestion was entirely illusory; the Government proposal was not that of the Committee of 1886 and had no resemblance to it. Undoubtedly the proposal would throw more work upon Members, and that the hon. Member for Clare considered a blessing in disguise, believing that the excitement of a Grand Committee relieved the intolerable tedium of Parliamentary life. It would greatly increase the hours of attendance, which the suggestion of the Committee of 1886 did not propose. A revival of that recommendation would remove a large block of his objections, but this was a different proposal. All questions of Parliamentary procedure should be considered from the points of view of the majority and of the Opposition, to bring about impartiality of judgment; and so looking at the Resolution, he considered its effect upon Grand Committees, a part of the legislative machinery which had done some excellent work. In so far as a Grand Committee was set to work upon long, complicated, useful, but rather dull, uncontroversial Bills, it had proved an admirable legislative instrument. He noticed, however, that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Duchy seemed to regard the proposal from different points of view. The Prime Minister contemplated the sending of all Bills, with rare exceptions, to Grand Committee, only retaining for Committee of the Whole House measures exciting acute controversy and upon which revolt would arise should such Bills be handed over to the secret councils of eighty gentlemen upstairs. On the other hand, the Chancellor of the Duchy seemed to imply that Bills really controversial should not be sent up to the Committee, and it would be well to know which plan it was proposed to adopt. There was much to be said in favour of the plan of the Chancellor of the Duchy.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said that all Bills were controversial, but what he meant was that great controversial measures of the Government should not be sent to these Committees.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought the right hon. Gentleman's language went further than that. Even now he was not quite sure whether the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Duchy saw eye to eye on the matter, because the latter thought that controversial matters should be sent up but not great controversial measures. It was important to know what was the Government design and to see what was embodied in the Resolution. The Government would only have to remain silent and the Bill would go upstairs without debate or division. ["No, no."]

SIR HENRY FOWLER read the proposed rule and pointed out that the Leader of the Opposition or any Member could move that the Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was not clear from those words whether they carried with them this procedure. Supposing the Second Reading of a private Member's Bill was got by closure at five o'clock on a Friday afternoon, would it be competent to ask for a second division to decide whether the

Bill was to go to a Committee upstairs. It did not say so, nor did he believe the new Standing Order carried out that view. But, leaving that subsidiary point, his main contention was that on important measures exciting deep religious feeling or touching great commercial or other interests the Grand Committee could not properly do the work required. So much for the first question of how it would affect Grand Committees. The next question was of more importance, namely, how would it effect their legislative work? He thought legislative work would be affected disastrously in two or three ways. In the first place, the Government could not give the proper amount of time to control all the work of the Grand Committees. There were not sufficient law officers to be present at all the Grand Committees to be established under this rule. The permanent officials could not be in Grand Committee day after day. They could not possibly give the time. Again there could not be the organised system with Grand Committees that there was in the House. Questions often arose in Committee which it was far beyond the competence of the Minister in charge of a measure to decide. How was the machinery to be provided in Grand Committee by which in those circumstances he could consult the Leader of the House or his colleagues? He had had great experience in this matter, and the present Leader of the House would confirm him when he said that he had been responsible for passing a great many difficult and controversial measures through the House, If a difficult Bill was going through the House he would have been very sorry to have been out of the reach of his colleague who was in charge of the Bill and to have been unable to have come into the House and given him such assistance as he could afford him. All that was impossible in Grand Committee. His noble friend who had spoken earlier in the evening, who had an inborn objection to all kinds of party organizations, had enforced Ministerial responsibility under the present system for legislation, especially of a controversial character. He believed, on on the whole, the Government of the day must in the main be responsible for the lines of legislation of the day, especially when it was of a controversial character, and he did not believe it was possible to throw upon Ministers, in addition to the difficult duties of attending Cabinet Committees, doing their work in their offices, and attending the House when it was sitting, the burden of coming down to the House at 11.30 and sitting on a Grand Committee. For the pleasure-loving gentlemen, whom those below the gangway so well represented, that might be an agreeable distraction, but for a Minister of the Crown it meant a slavery which would end in very imperfect work being done either in their offices on the one hand, or in the Grand Committee on the other. That was a great objection, but it was not the main one, and here he thought he ought to take up the challenge thrown out to him to suggest an alternative. Although it was not the business of an Opposition to provide an alternative, he reminded Ministers that he had to the best of his ability provided one in the proposals he made some years ago for the amendment of the rules of the House. He was prepared to grant that to go over in the whole House every detail of a great measure was to throw on its Members an unnecessary burden, a burden which resulted in an enormous amount of in quiry and in many cases wasted a great deal of time. Then the question arose, if it were a matter of common admission on both sides that a full discussion both in Committee and on Report was undesirable, with which of those stages ought they to interfere. Without hesitation he said the stage they ought to curtail was the Report stage, and not the Committee stage. It had been urged that as a Member could only speak once on the Report stage, therefore the Report stage should be left alone. In the Committee stage they could speak more than once, therefore let them curtail that stage. That was plausible; but he believed that of all who could speak only once on Report the Minister in charge of a Bill was most injured by the limitation. It was true he could speak again by leave of the House, but the limitations he was then under were embarrassing, and if he guarded against his comparative defencelessness, against the development of fresh attacks by anticipating them in his original speech instead of confining himself strictly to the point raised at the outset, nothing would be so likely to prolong debate. The speech of the Minister would in the first place be long and would be just of the character to provide material for obstruction to hon. Gentlemen who had not the ingenuity to secure that material for themselves. Would that save time? If hon. Gentlemen went through a debate that was obstructed they would see that the obstruction was not maintained by one man on the same amendment. It did not usually begin with the amendment first proposed. It began on points taken up by one speaker from another. He believed the plan was called "passing" at football. If he carried the House with him so far, he came to the ground which everybody must admit was the most serious objection. In the case of the Plural Voting Bill last session, in consequence of the criticisms passed on the Government, the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill promised a number of changes which he asked the House to allow him to consider between the Committee and Report stages. The right hon. Gentleman could not have done the necessary drafting on the spur of the moment in Committee. No man had more capacity than the right hon. Gentleman, but it was beyond his ingenuity to do it. Nothing would conduce more to slovenly legislation than to compel even the most skilled draftsman to produce amendments of a complicated and far-reaching character without consideration. If the House was going for the first time to leave their discussions over to the Report stage, when there was no opportunity to consult the draughtsmen, then, of course, the amount of slovenly legislation for which they were responsible would be greatly increased. He thought the House was sometimes unduly attacked in regard to the drafting of its Bills. When Judges put an interpretation upon an Act of Parliament which was obviously not the intention of the Assembly that passed it, they always made some sarcastic references to the Government draftsmen or to the law officers of the Crown, or to some other more or less innocent person. Undoubtedly, there was some slovenly draftsmanship, and it might be in the recollection of the House, that John Stuart Mill was so impressed by that that he thought drafting ought to be done by a separate Committee; that the House should only decide on policy and that a Committee should advise it from the drafting point of view. If they were going to get a Grand Committee to do the drafting after the House had settled the policy there would be a great deal to be said for it; but that was not the plan of the Government. The House had never really taken a Grand Committee as an authority, and would never yield to its opinion in a matter of controversy. Therefore, whenever a Bill was really controversial, it would be revised from top to bottom on the Report stage, and he ventured sincerely to tel the House that if he was right in the view he had put forward, they would not only spend on Report all the time they now spent in Committee, but they would spend it to much less advantage, and the result would be that measures would be ill-defended and ill-advised—not from the point of view of policy, but ill-drafted and ill-expressed in legal language. If they took the plan which he advocated, the House would enormously reduce the time on the Report stage, which would be left for what it was designed, namely, the going over again, not the policy of the amendments, but to see that the necessary changes promised in Committee had been carried out. The Government would have his support in any policy of reform which would prevent the same weary debate being repeated on Report which had originally taken place in Committee. That would leave it to the House either to start new questions which the Government might think necessary, or to discuss the manner in which the Government had carried out changes in a Bill which they had already proposed in Committee. That appeared to him a practical suggestion. It would really relieve the House without diminishing its efficiency. It would save the time of Members without impairing their effectiveness as legislators. The discussion they had had and the consideration he had been able to give to the matter confirmed him in the view that the Committee stage, which was characteristic of the House—he admitted no other Assembly had it—

was one of its greatest glories; it marked them off as a legislative body, to their advantage, from any other legislature in the world; and he thought it would be an evil day for them and their successors if in the vain hope of really diminishing the labours and burdens thrown upon them by modern legislative work—it would be an evil day if, in aiming at this most legitimate object, they were to destroy a stage which was characteristic of the House, and with which he was convinced they could not do away without inflicting a permanent blow on the efficiency of the legislative machine.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) said that, following the example which had been set in the speeches that afternoon, he hoped that they would avoid anything of a partisan character in connection with these proposals, which, he thought, ought to be decided outside their ordinary divisions on one side of the House or the other, or between one part of each side and another. There were Members who honestly believed that the House of Commons legislated too much, that a great many unnecessary, and therefore mischievous, Bills were passed, that the slower they went the better, and that if a Government turned out one or two Bills in a Session they had done pretty well. The idea entertained by a large number of Members was that the House had fallen woefully behind in legislation, and that there were large arrears to be made up, that the country required, whether it were alive to the advantage of it or not, a great deal of legislation which in present circumstances could not be passed. He ranged himself, and the Government ranged themselves, among the second party, and it was in order to accelerate business, and to have a livelier and more effective method of conducting it, that they wished to see alterations made in the rules. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had made an interesting and powerful speech earlier in the evening, but he had never heard a stronger speech in favour of Home Rule—unintentionally, he thought, in favour of Home Rule—in favour of that side of the question of Home Rule which regarded, not so much the wants of Ireland or Scotland, or any other part of the United Kingdom, as the necessity of the House itself, which looked to the devolution of business. That sort of Home Rule had received a strong amount of advocacy, unconscious and unintentional, from the right hon. Gentleman. He argued that the proposed changes would be disastrous, and he implied that he would be content with certain little emendations of a subordinate character. He was afraid he could not accept the right hon. Gentleman's view. They would not be doing their duty to the country if they did not enlarge their powers, and, by some means, hit on a more effective method of passing measures through the House. The Chancellor of the Duchy and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Rushcliffe Division had referred to the recommendation of that most notable Committee—the Hartington Committee—and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London had pointed out that the Government's proposal was not the same as the proposal made by that Committee. Why was it not the same? That Committee proposed to refer all Bills to Standing Committees. It added—

> "When the business of the Standing Committee shall require it the House may order, on the Motion of a Minister of the Crown, after not less than two clear days notice, made at the meeting of the House and put without Amendment or debate, that on Thursdays and Fridays, until the House shall otherwise order, the morning sitting shall be appropriated to the business of the Standing Committees, and the House on such days shall meet for ordinary business at nine o'clock."

Thus they had two half-day holidays. That was said to vitiate the Government's proposals. All he could say was that if the proposals were accepted and the Standing Committees proved to be a success, and if it was found—as he thought it might be found—that circumstances admitted of it, there was no reason at all why there should not be one holiday a week given to the House at large. That would be a considerable relief. That Committee, he was told, also recommended that the House should be relieved from the duties now discharged by private Bill Committees. Well, his withers were unwrung in regard to

Private Bill Committees, because he had urged, session after session, that the discussion of private business should be sent away from the House in order to relieve the strain upon members. The next point was that no controversial Bills ought to go upstairs. What was a controversial Bill? Every Bill was, or might be made, a controversial Bill. He would be disposed to say that a Bill which expressed a controversial doctrine and had a controversial object was a controversial Bill. But there was many a Bill which had an object which attracted the sympathy of all parts of the House which yet, in some of its provisions, might introduce controversy. They could not treat those two classes of Bill in the same category. The Second Reading disposed, so far as that House was concerned, of the controversial note of those Bills whose main object and purpose was controversial. Others must also go up to the Standing Committees, and they must take their chance of smaller controversies showing their heads there. But the Government had no desire to send the great measures of the session, which almost necessarily were controversial, to Grand Committees. They would still be retained under the control of the House. But there were very many measures, which might be long and elaborate, but which not only could be dealt with by Standing Committees, but had been dealt with with the greatest success by them—Bills such as factory Bills, full of the most delicate and complicated details, all arousing strong feelings and attacking certain interests. The right hon. Gentleman had made a great point that it might not be easy to have the requisite advice and control of the members of the Government. It might impose a great strain upon members of the Government. As to law officers, he regretted very much it was not possible to adopt a provision which he had always been in favour of, that they should have a third law officer—namely, the Judge-Advocate-General, and that he should always be available—which was quite consistent with his office—to give that legal assistance which was required of the Government in Committee. But when the present Government came into office they found that a permanent arrangement had been made, and therefore they were deprived of that resource. But he could not help thinking that there might be means whereby legal assistance might be given on Committees, even although the two law officers were otherwise employed. Then the right hon. Gentleman had pointed out the effect upon the Report stage. But he thought the fallacy which underlay what he had said was that he spoke as if they were proposing that the Committee stage of a Bill should be completely suspended. A Bill might be as thoroughly examined and as successfully altered and adjusted in a Committee upstairs as in Committee of the Whole House. He rather thought that it would be better adjusted upstairs than there, where there was a tendency, natural to them all, to make speeches for speaking's sake. He did not see that that House of 670 members was a more favourable authority to settle the details of a Bill than a businesslike Committee upstairs. The right hon. Gentleman had attacked them very fiercely because of the habit they had introduced of giving facilities for and adopting private Members' Bills. Undoubtedly the Land Tenure Bill last year was an imperfectly drafted Bill, and they suffered for it through the Report stage. He quite made that admission. But they came into office so immediately before the commencement of the session that they were unable to have their own Bills drafted, and they, therefore, adopted that Bill. But let them not found their expectations of what was to happen in the future under these new rules upon any such experience as that. It was quite an unusual, and, let them hope, it would remain an unusual, experience. Now that they had had this prolonged discussion on the general conception of, and the main purpose which underlay, these Rules of Procedure, which was that the business of examination in Committee should for the most part be referred to Standing Committees, and that it should be only exceptionally important Bills that were kept for the direct control of the House, he hoped they would be able to proceed to the Amendments.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) moved to substitute for the proposal of the Prime Minister a Resolution providing that there should be a business committee of the House, consisting of Mr. Speaker and six other members nominated by Mr. Speaker, who should be representative of the various sections of political opinion in the House, and that all Bills, when they had been read a second time, should stand committed to either Committee of the Whole House or to a Grand or Special Committee in accordance with the decision of the business committee. He said that from the remarks of the Chancellor of the Duchy it appeared that the right hon. Gentleman did not approve of the course he proposed. He admitted that it was a somewhat bold step for a private Member to put forward a proposition of this kind. There were undoubtedly great difficulties in the way of forming such a Committee. Having disclaimed any intention in making this proposal of bringing the Speaker into controversial matters, he said the object he had in view was to give to the House the power which the Government desired to retain for themselves. After what they had heard he believed it was all the more necessary that they should adopt some practice of this sort. Notwithstanding the statements which had been made by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Duchy they were still in very much doubt what particular Bills were going to be sent to the Grand Committees which had not been sent in to them in the past. It had been stated that the great Bills of the session were still to be discussed in Committee of the Whole House. If that was so, of course a good deal of the argument of the Prime Minister as to a Grand Committee's being a superior body for producing a better drafted Bill than Committee of the Whole House fell to the ground. But it was evident that the Government themselves acknowledged that the whole House was capable of dealing with Bills in Committee; no instance, so far as he knew, had been given of any Bill which had not been sent to a Grand Committee, and which would be sent under the new system. The Prime Minister had appealed to the whole range of the Factories Bills; but they had for years been sent to the Grand Committee. There had never been any disposition on the part of the House to refuse their consideration in Grand Committee. It was acknowledged that it was just that sort of Bill which could, with great advantage, be relegated to a Grand Committee for consideration. They were lengthy Bills dealing with technical subjects, and, in the main, they were not controversial from the Party point of view. Last session the House sat for a great number of months, but only three Bills were dealt with in Committee of the Whole House, namely, the Education Bill, the Trade Disputes Bill, and the Plural Voting Bill. He thought that Bills which affected the franchise should be excluded from the Standing Order, because they knew that on such matters the authority of a Grand Committee would not be accepted by the House. He thought, before they proceeded further, they should have some clear statement as to what special Bills would be sent to the Grand Committees which had not been sent before. His proposal was that there should be a small Committee, consisting of Mr. Speaker, and such men as the Chairman of the Panel, the Chairman of Committees, and others of experience, to say whether a Bill should be left to be considered by Committee of the Whole House, or sent to a Grand Committee. He believed such a scheme would work admirably, and that it would remove a good deal of friction and controversy. Possibly, if such a Committee gained the confidence of the House, it might in the future be given even greater powers, such as deciding the time that should be allotted to the consideration of particular Bills. The proposal had some authority behind it in the evidence which was given before the Procedure Committee last year. Sir Courtenay Ilbert believed such a scheme could be worked out, while Lord Selby, though he afterwards receded from the position, expressed the opinion that a Committee, consisting of the Speaker, two members of the Government, and two Members from the other side of the House, chosen by the Speaker himself with reference to their character and standing in the House, would be an ideal tribunal for dealing with the question.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out from the beginning to 'But,' in line 3, and insert 'there shall be a

Business Committee of the House, consisting of Mr. Speaker and six other Members nominated by Mr. Speaker, who shall be representative of the various sections of political opinion in the House. All Bills, when they have been read a second time, shall stand committed to either Committee of the Whole House, or to a Grand or Special Committee, in accordance with the decision of the Business Committee.' "—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'when a' stand part of the Question."

SIR HENRY FOWLER said he quite appreciated the motive of the hon. Gentleman in moving his Amendment, but the answer to the hon. Member's proposal was that given by Lord Selby himself. If the hon. Member had proposed to constitute a Committee to deal with the time to be devoted to Bills so as to get rid of the guillotine he would have been inclined to give it a very favourable reception. The hon. Member had quoted the evidence of Lord Selby; but had stopped short in his quotation. What Lord Selby said was—

> "If you had not to consider the important point of keeping the Speaker free from all these questions, I should say that a very small Committee, consisting of two Members, taken, we will say, two from the Government side, and two from the other side, but chosen by the Speaker himself with reference to their character and standing in the House, would be an ideal tribunal for dealing with that question. Then, of course, the Speaker must decide if they differ."

And Lord Selby went on to say—

> "I am not recommending that, because I foresee that it would throw upon the Speaker at times probably a somewhat difficult task, and it might place him in a very unpleasant position. I do not think if one reasonably and cooly considered it, it ought to place him in a difficult position, but people, unfortunately, are not always very reasonable and very cool in dealing with Parliamentary matters, and therefore I should hesitate to recommend it."

Then, in reference to this ideal tribunal's consisting of two Members of experience taken from the two sides of the House with the Speaker, and in answer to the question whether if they differed would not the Speaker be placed in the unpleasant position of having to decide the question, Lord Selby said—

> "Yes; but you must have somebody to decide it, and you could not have it decided by anything that could be said to be a political majority."

In fact, it would throw upon the Speaker the burden of deciding upon a political question. He could not accept the Amendment which he believed to be wholly unworkable.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said it would not only be unworkable, but unrealisable. There was a general tendency of human nature to shunt off the decision of difficult questions on to somebody else. It was easy to imagine a heaven-sent Committee above all mundane passions; but he feared that that was an impossible ideal. He was afraid that the proposal would place on the occupant of the chair a duty which might be very disagreeable when there was an equality of votes on a particular Bill, such as a Licensing Bill.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said that the hon. Member for the Ashford Division had made out a very poor case for the Amendment which he had moved. As a member of the Committee who had listened to all the evidence, he was assured that the great majority of the Committee felt that however desirable in theory some such suggestion as had been made by the hon. Member for Ashford might be, it would, in practice, be unworkable. If the hon. Gentleman would consider the whole of Lord Selby's evidence he would see that the late Speaker really departed from the suggestion before he had finished. He himself put a question to Lord Selby—

> "After all it is the Government which is responsible for the business of the House and for the bringing in of the Bills?"—"Yes." "And therefore you see no objection to the Government's having the responsibility of deciding which Bill shall be sent to Standing Committees, and which shall be kept in Committee of the Whole House?"—"No; it has always been understood that the Leader of the House for the time being has a duty to both sides of the House in a question of that kind."

The hon. Member had no weight of authority to support his case. His proposal was quite impracticable.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's) said that he was a member of the Committee, and he confessed that he did not take the same view as the hon. Members for East Edinburgh and the right hon. Member for Hallam. He quite saw the difficulties which surrounded the whole question, but he did not wish to thrust on the Chair any duties which might bring upon its occupant a stigma by having to decide a Party question. On the other hand, he saw great advantages in the suggestion of his hon. friend if they could only find a body, other than the Government, which would decide what Bills should be sent upstairs. The Chancellor of the Duchy had said that no important Government Bills on which the fate of the Government might depend would be sent upstairs, and the Prime Minister had made a similar statement. That modified the objection which he had to sending all ordinary Bills upstairs. From his experience on Grand Committees he held that they could not deal successfully with measures which involved much controversy. Those Committees had been excellent bodies for dealing with administrative measures, and Bills on the principle of which there was general agreement, such as factory legislation and workmen's compensation. He wished nothing to be done which would tend to break down the Grand Committee system. At the same time he wished that there could be some body other than the Government to decide which Bill should be sent upstairs; and he did not think it would pass the wit of man to devise such a body; for instance, it might be formed out of the members of the Chairmen's Panel. Such a Committee could decide on the delicate question of what Bills were to be sent upstairs, and also on the time limit. He thought his hon. friend behind him had made out a case for the House to consider carefully whether the questions ought not to be referred to an impartial Committee before Bills were sent upstairs. He did not readily give up the old idea that they might be able to find some Committee which would be able to deliberate upon and decide such a question, and which should have the complete confidence of both sides of the House. His object was in no way to thrust a partisan duty upon the Speaker because, he believed nothing would inflict greater injury on the House than to put the Speaker in an equivocal position.

Mr. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) said he was reluctant to touch upon this question, but as a Member of the Committee which considered it he felt it his duty to do so. He would do nothing to jeopardise the good relations which had invariably existed between the House of Commons and the Chair, and they could not leave out of sight that the whole question of whether or not the system which the Government sought to set up would work smoothly and well depended upon whether the Bills which were sent to the Standing Committees were really controversial or not. It was that question, and that question alone, that they were concerned with, in considering whether they should accept the Amendment. Who was to decide whether the Bills which would be sent to the Grand Committees would be controversial or not? Under the proposals of the Government as they stood it would be the Government, and it would therefore be the very persons who introduced and were responsible for the Bills to be considered. Who would decide whether or not a Bill was controversial? That was not, to his view, a wholesome position, not only from the point of view of that House of Commons, but from the point of view of any House of Commons to be constituted in the future. They knew that it was not the intention of the present Government to send large controversial measures to these Grand Committees, but they had no guarantee that the Government, in days to come, would abide by the spirit of the Resolution as now interpreted by the Government. That was a point which was evidently in the mind of Lord Selby, who naturally spoke with great authority on the subject when he was good enough to give evidence before the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Rushcliffe Division took up the point that there was no danger of His Majesty's present Government abusing the powers entrusted to them, and Lord Selby said he thought there was no danger of that sort in regard to present Parliamentarians, but in regard to those of ten or fifteen years hence Lord Selby said it was difficult to say what a new generation, unaccustomed to the present practice, might do. That meant that some Government, less scrupulous than the Government now in office, might find it convenient to stand upon the words literally translated, instead of upon the spirit of the Standing Order. At present there was no danger that highly controversial Bills would be sent upstairs, but there might be the danger of a Government who would say—

> "We are in a tight place; we are anxious to have certain measures carried out before we part for the recess, and we shall take our stand upon the words of the Standing Orders, and not upon the spirit which was expressed when they were passed; and we shall send these Bills upstairs."

Then he thought they would be face to face with a state of things which His Majesty's Government contemplated, but from which they shrank. He thought it would be advisable for the House as a whole to safeguard themselves in some measure against what they all admitted would be an abuse of the powers of the Government. Such a safeguard was suggested by his hon. friend behind him. As Lord Selby said, the question ought not to be decided by a majority behind a Minister; the fact that he had a minority before him was what he had to consider. Surely if they could, without jeopardising the Chair, constitute a Committee consisting of Members of both sides of the House, presided over by the Speaker, which should decide which Bills should be sent upstairs, it would be the better course. For himself, he could not see how, under the proposal of his hon. friend, the position of the Speaker could be put in jeopardy. The minority would bow to the decision of the Speaker, and it would not be thrown in the teeth of the Government that they were imposing their will upon an unwilling House of Commons. The course suggested would avoid trouble in the future

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 257; Noes 35. (Division List No. 91.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'wr Hamlets, S Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir. J. H (Essex Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Cullinan, J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbysh., N.E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)

Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset)
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter N.
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'm't'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Searvens, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir A. F.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C W
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Laurence Hardy and Mr. Rawlinson.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said the Amendment he now proposed to move would have the effect of restricting the operation of this new departure to Bills for which the Government was responsible. He freely admitted that, if the Amendment were accepted, considerable consequential Amendments to the

Standing Orders would be necessary. Private Members' Bills would still be free to go to the Standing Committee, but they would go there only when the House chose to send them there by Resolution. He had two reasons for making this proposal. He had been very much impressed, in the course of his experience, with the great waste of time through the labours of Members being inoperative under our present system. In this Standing Order the Government appeared to lose sight of the profound difference between Committees of the Whole House and Committees upstairs. Committees upstairs were unable to avoid the duty of considering a Bill and making some return to the House. A Committee of the Whole House could get rid of that difficulty by refusing to consider a Bill further, or the Bill could be withdrawn, or a Committee of the Whole House could pass a Resolution suspending its proceedings. He had therefore been much impressed with the waste of time involved by Members considering Bills in Committee which had no chance of going further. It was for that reason he left the private Bills in their present position. He desired that in a great change like that now proposed the House should proceed by steps, by way of experiment, and not proceed too fast until they found by experience that the course proposed was possible. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the first 'a,' to insert 'Government.'"—(*Mr. Stuart Wortley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Government' be there inserted."

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) thought that they ought to have some reply, although personally he did not agree with the Amendment. If all the Amendments moved from the Unionist side of the House were to be treated in that way; if it was to be understood that it was the intention of the Government to force rules of this revolutionary character through the House without giving any reason for their being so forced, without their taking the trouble even to answer important Amendments, then he thought the result might be disastrous, so far as saving any time in discussion was concerned. If the Amendment were carried, Government measures would go to the four Committees automatically, and private Members' Bills would be in the same position as at present. He had watched very narrowly private Bills for the last ten years, and they had all gone upstairs. ["No."] Well, nearly all; he had found that in nine cases out of ten private Members' Bills had gone to one of the two Grand Committees upstairs. He was not defending the principle, because, as a rule, private Members' Bills were all bad, but it was no use blinking at the fact that they did go upstairs in the manner he had stated. Therefore, if his right hon. friend went to a division, as he hoped he would, then he would excuse him if he voted with the Prime Minister on this occasion, unless, of course, the Prime Minister accepted the Amendment, in which case he should have to vote against him.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the hon. Baronet evidently loved the Prime Minister little, but loved the Amendment less. If he were not a member of the Government no doubt he would be ready to maintain that there was a good deal to be said in favour of the Amendment, because there were certain private Members' Bills which might not be so much designed to enrich the Statute-book as to carry out pledges, win popularity, or fulfil other purposes. But, being a member of the Government, he was bound to save them from the imputation of favouring themselves, by drawing a distinction between Government measures and private Members' Bills. It was therefore impossible for the Government to support the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Prime Minister had not altogether appreciated the argument on which his right hon. friend had based the Amendment. He thoroughly understood that the Government did not desire to discriminate between their own and private Members' Bills; but might he point out that private Members' Bills which were read a second time on a Friday were invariably sent to Committees upstairs? When those Bills came from Grand Committees further consideration of them was reserved until after Whitsuntide, when there were only two days set apart for them. If the ground taken up by the Prime Minister and the Government was to be maintained, they could not stop there; they would have to give increased facilities for private Members' Bills. At present the proposal of the Government simply meant that the Grand Committees would be called upon to do what they had already done, namely, consider measures which would have no chance of proceeding further when they came back to the House. Therefore—he did not use the words offensively— the scheme was a delusion and a snare. In reality they were not giving private Members' Bills the same advantage as would be given to the Bills of the Government, who had control of the time of the House, and could give their measures priority on the Order Paper. He did not think the Prime Minister had fully appreciated the great importance of the Amendment, which appeared to him to go in the direction the Government wished to follow. He thought that by drawing a distinction between Government Bills which had a fixed and definite prospect, and private Members' Bills, which had no such prospect, they would be furthering rather than retarding their own proposal.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS said it was not often he found himself in agreement with the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London, but he did so that night. Those Members who had sat in former Parliaments were aware, of course, that there was a considerable waste of time in Grand Committees over Bills which had little chance of being passed into law. He thought, however, the remedy for the difficulty was to be found in other ways. In the old days some of the best of the statutes were brought in by private Members. There were changed times before them. Whether Liberals or Conservatives were on the Government side of the House, they would find that the atmosphere of the House of Commons was different from what it had been in the last twenty years. In the changed times he hoped there would be a recrudescence of the opportunities for private Members' Bills passing into law. The Amendment was, in his opinion, open to the gravest objection. He thought that private Members' Bills should not be put in an inferior position in respect of their reference to Standing Committees to Government measures. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that there were other means of avoiding the waste of time besides that which he had suggested. It would be perfectly possible to change the time when Bills were placed in the order of precedence. They could be given precedence two or three weeks earlier in the session, and that would give them a chance of passing into law. There were other ways which he need not indicate at present. He hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said he had not been absent from the Standing Committee on Law on more than one or two occasions in many years. Speaking, therefore, from long experience, he thought there ought to be some limitation, and that Bills ought not to be referred to that Committee in the light-hearted manner suggested by the Government. He had prepared a list of the Bills which had been referred to the Standing Committee on Law, and it seemed to him that the House in referring Bills should have regard rather to their character than to their magnitude. The passing of the Factories and Workshops Bill, which had been referred to with great force by the Prime Minister, was an interesting illustration of the good work which could be done by a Standing Committee when all parties desired to pass a Bill. That measure brought about a most salutary reform of the law. It was not produced in a hurry. The sittings were prolonged and the inquiry was most careful. Another extremely interesting Bill was that dealing with education, which was passed under the auspices of Sir John Gorst. That Bill was much amended in Committee, but the discussions were conducted in the most friendly and kindly spirit. The Bill dealing with the employment of children was a most difficult one, but it was dealt with in the same spirit and with the same happy result. Another most important Bill dealt with by Grand Committee was that which was necessitated by the great scandal which arose years ago in consequence of the practice of imputing blame to candidates for Parliamentary election. Many Members lost their seats on account of the accusations. A Bill passed through the Standing Committee in one or two sittings making those scandalous proceedings corrupt practices. Therefore he had come to the conclusion that there ought to be some definition of the character of the Bills to be referred to those Committees. He would support the Amendment, though he did not say it proposed the best method of doing what he desired to see done.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY thought it was desirable that there should be some distinction between Government Bills and unofficial Members' Bills. After Whitsuntide the Government had the whole time of the House, except ten hours. He did not think that a Grand Committee should be asked to spend its time in considering private Members' Bills, when there was no prospect of their becoming law. The right hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division had said there were other means of getting out of the difficulty. This Resolution came to the House with the authority of the right hon. Gentleman, for he was a Member of the Government at the time. If there were other means he did not put them before the Procedure Committee. Why did he not do so? He would certainly vote in favour of the Amendment.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said it seemed to him that the Government were trying to protect the rights of private Members, while the Opposition were trying to strengthen the hands of the Government. It would be a misfortune if in passing these procedure Resolutions they were to pass them in such a way as to make a distinction between Government Bills and other kinds of Bills. A Bill introduced by a private Member might become a Government Bill. There had been two instances of that already in the present Parliament, and it would be exceedingly awkward if they started by making distinctions as to how the Bills should be dealt with. If a large number of Bills were sent to Grand Committees with no chance of their passing through the subsequent stages, there would be a large amount of valuable time wasted. One result which suggested itself to his mind was that the House would possibly be far more careful in passing Second Readings if it knew that the effect would be, not merely as sometimes happened at present, to shelve the measure, but to send it to a Grand Committee. He could not support the Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR remarked that as between Government Bills and private Members' Bills there was a distinction, and he thought there ought to be. The Government ought to be, he would not say the controllers, but the guides of the House in matters of legislation. In former days some of the most important legislation was brought in and carried through by private Members. But as Parliamentary life became more strenuous it would be found less and less possible to carry out that plan. The advice of the Government should be an important factor which the House had to take into account before coming to a decision. His hon. friend's ideal of perfect equality between the Bills of the Government and those of private Members would not bear examination in the light of the facts. At present the great mass of private Members' Bills were treated not so much as actual projects of legislation as the occasion of fruitful discussion. Nobody supposed that a really controversial Bill in the hands of a private Member, introduced on the third or fourth Friday in the session, had the smallest chance of passing, and no heartburning arose. But if they provided machinery whereby those Bills would be advanced another stage, that of Committee, it seemed to him it would really raise expectations which must be perpetually defeated. If, however, such Bills did pass the Report and Third Reading stages, there would undoubtedly be a great mass of very crude legislation. Besides, the Committee stage of those Bills would occupy from eighty to 100 Members in hard work for a great many days in the session, and unless the Bills were passed, all that labour would be thrown away. His right hon. friend's Amendment appeared to him perfectly sound in principle, although it would require some small consequential Amendments later, and he thought the Government would be well advised to confine the proposals to their own measures.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 42; Noes, 281. (Division List No. 92.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir A. F.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banner, John S. (Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Stuart-Wortley and Sir Francis Powell.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Chas. P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Anna
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hn. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hn. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget

Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan,J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rawlinson,John FrederickPeel
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker,Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY moved an Amendment of which the hon. Member for Ashford had given notice restricting the Bills to be sent to Grand Committees to those read a second time by a majority of two-thirds of the Members voting in a division. Though not a complete solution, he thought it was an approach to a distinction between controversial and non-controversial Bills, and there were precedents for proportional majorities. There was something of the kind in the original rules of 1882 as to the application of the closure. In those rules it was necessary before the closure could be applied that there should be 100 Members in the House, and that the majority for the closure should be forty. The emergency rules of 1881, which were only current for that single session, provided that the closure must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of the Members present. With these two precedents before them it was not possible to say that the idea involved in the Amendment was foreign to the procedure of the House.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'by a majority of more than two-thirds of the Members voting in the said division.'"—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words there inserted."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he could not accept the Amendment, for which he saw no necessity. The right hon. Gentleman had quoted certain precedents, but they were not very valid precedents, because experience had shown that they were unworkable. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that unimportant Bills might be sent upstairs—Bills which were separate from controversial measures. He did not want any distinction to be drawn, but the intention was to retain for Committee of the Whole House only measures of great importance such as the Government made the main business of a session. He did not see that there was any necessity for the rigid rule laid down in the Amendment, and he hoped it would not be pressed. The hon. Member for Ashford, who had given notice of it, evidently did not think it important, as he had abandoned it.

MR. WALTER LONG asked if they were to understand that there was to be no limit at all to the Bills that were to go upstairs? But for the activity of hon. Members the chief of whom was the present Deputy Chairman, whose knowledge of procedure they all recognised, the Bills of private Members read a second time would be more numerous than they were. If certain hon. Members desired to break down this rule they had only to allow a number of Bills to pass Second Reading, and the Grand Committees would be flooded with a number of badly-drafted and crudely-drawn Bills, which hon. Members must know would only come down to the House to be thrown out, although the Committees might have spent a long time in trying to put them into shape. Without a limit that would become a stumbling block of a serious character. One reason why the Grand Committees had done good work hitherto was that they had seriously considered the Bills sent to them with the view of passing them into law, and under the present system only one or two could be passed into law unless they were taken up by the Government, although probably eight or nine had been read a second time after inadequate discussion on Friday afternoons. His own belief was that if hon. Gentlemen who had sat week after week on Grand Committees on Bills discovered that all their labour had been in vain, it would soon be found that no quorum would turn up on the Grand Committees to consider the Bills remitted to them. It was for that reason that he supported the limitation suggested by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he had been reluctant to intrude too much on the attention of the House, but he had not, as the Prime Minister suggested, abandoned his Amendment. He was only too glad to think that it had been taken up by his right hon. friend. He still thought it was desirable to have some means of deciding in the House whether Bills were of a nature to go to a Grand Committee or not; and the Amendment would show that in the opinion of the House there was an overwhelming majority in favour of the Bill going upstairs. He hoped that his right hon. friend would push the Amendment to a division.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) thought that there must be some sifting process under which Bills should be sent to the Standing Committee. To send every Bill to the Standing Committee must inevitably in time break it down. He believed himself, strange as the remark might appear to some hon. Members, that more time had been wasted in Grand Committees by waiting for a quorum than by undue deliberation and the prolongation of debate. He therefore thought the extension of the system was hurtful. He was sure that it involved a waste of time of the House, and it was no compliment to hon. Members to ask them to come down, at great sacrifice of convenience and time, to attend to public duties, when the Bill which they had to consider had no possibility of passing into law.

SIR F. BANBURY supported the Amendment, which he thought was a very useful one, to which he could see no objection. He understood the Prime Minister, in advancing reasons for refusing to accept the Amendment, to say that all Bills were controversial, but that large Government Bills would not be sent up to the Grand Committees. Was he right in that?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No.

SIR F. BANBURY said he understood then that all Bills large or small would go up to these Committees.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No.

SIR F. BANBURY said he was at a loss to know what was intended. What was wanted on his side of the House was, that before they passed these procedure rules, they should frame a rule defining what Bills were to go to a Grand Committee and what Bills were not. At the present moment the only Bills which were not to go to Grand Committee were measures imposing taxes, Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders. He did not want to cast any aspersion upon the intentions of the Front Bench opposite, but it was one thing to say such and such a Bill would be reserved for the consideration of Committee of the Whole House, and it was quite another thing to pass a rule under which they did not know what Bills were going to Grand Committee and what Bills were not. In order to meet that point his right hon. friend had suggested words restricting the Bills to be sent to Grand Committee to those "read a second time by a majority of two-thirds of the Members voting in a division." He thought that was a very reasonable proposal, and there was a precedent for it in the proceedings of the House itself, because between 1882 and 1888 there was a limit under which the closure could not be applied unless a hundred Members voted for it. There were a considerable number of Bills in regard to which opinion in the House was not very decided. A large number of Members coming up from the smoking room or the dining room met friends who induced them to go into the "aye" or the "no" lobby when there was a division, but if those Bills were to be sent upstairs there would be greater deliberation on the part of hon. Members as to the way they should vote, and he thought the Amendment would secure that. It was a great change that was proposed, and they wanted to secure that, before a Bill went to a Grand Committee, it was a measure which in the opinion of the House should go upstairs and be given facilities for passing. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy that they ought not to look upon this as a Party question, and he agreed with his right hon. friend the senior Member for the City of London that they should look upon it from both points of view—that of the Government and that of the Opposition. The acceptance of his right hon. friend's Amendment was not likely to hurt the Government, because they had such a large majority, but it might hurt the Unionist Party if they came back with a small majority. The Amendment would establish a precedent which would enable the House to exercise some control over the Bills to which it gave a Second Reading. The only result of the new rules, unless something of this nature was done, would be to increase tenfold the power of the Government. When right hon. Gentlemen opposite came into opposition they would find, unless the Amendment were adopted, that they had put a very great weapon into the hands of the Government. One of the great complaints against the Unionist Party, no doubt sincerely made, was that their new rules of procedure had taken out of the hands of private Members a power which formerly belonged to them and put that power into the hands of the Government, so that the Government practically became dictators. These new rules would in his opinion strengthen the influence of the Government and weaken the influence of private Members. He challenged any private Member to get up and deny that what he said was right. The only result of passing the rules would be to enable the Government to do anything they liked. The rights of private Members ought to be safeguarded. They had a right to investigate the Bills of the Government and to express their opinion upon them.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the difficulty of the Amendment was that if a Bill was carried by less than a two-thirds majority it would not go to a Committee of the Whole House, and it would require a special Resolution. All this rule did was to ensure that one division should be taken instead of two. The true remedy was not to read the Bill a second time if it was desired not to cumber the Standing Committee with a measure that had no chance of going any further. He saw great difficulty in adopting the Amendment, because no provision was indicated and no adequate provision could be made for that class of Bill which passed its Second Reading by less than a two-thirds majority.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 52; Noes, 296. (Division List No. 93.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.

Sir F. Banbury.

Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Renton, Major Leslie
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley George D.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Stuart-Wortley and Mr. Laurence Hardy.

NOES

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice

Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E.(Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford.E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards,Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley Hn. A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart Halley (Greenock)
Strachey Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John(Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J.(York,W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St.Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R,
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness), on a point of order, asked whether his vote could be recorded. He passed through the lobby door, and the tellers had already gone before his vote was recorded.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should have been rather more rapid.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: I received no warning that the discussion had been concluded. The other lobby had not been cleared before I passed out.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): I called "door, door" to the whip on the other side, and he announced to me that the lobby had been cleared. I, therefore, came away from the door.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) rose.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no use in continuing the discussion. Another time the hon. Member for Holderness must get through the lobby rather more quickly.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: May I respectfully ask whether my vote will be recorded?

*MR. SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. Member is too late.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) moved to insert after the word "time" the words "during the time for opposed business," so that the Standing Order would read, "After a Bill has been read a second time, during the time for opposed business it shall be committed to one of the Standing Committees." He said that the Amendment was suggested to him by the remarks of the Chancellor of the Duchy, who had stated that in any case so far as the Second Reading of a Bill was concerned the House would still have a veto. Unless some provision of this kind was inserted, the House, as a matter of fact, would have no veto at all. If a Bill which was put down for Second Reading was not reached till after eleven o'clock it would go through in the twinkling of an eye should there be no one on the alert and ready to say, "I object." Having in that way got a Second Reading, it would go to a Grand Committee, though had it not come on at the tail end of a long sitting, it would not have obtained a Second Reading. He did not think it was contemplated by the Government that Bills, the Second Reading of which was got in that way should be sent to a Grand Committee. It was important to safeguard the veto of the House on Bills in danger of accidentally slipping through the Second Reading stage at a late hour, and when no debate could by the rules of the House occur.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) seconded the Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had already pointed out that if any section of the House desired to break down the work of the Grand Committees it would only be necessary to allow various Second Readings to pass after eleven o'clock. In that way the work of the Grand Committees would accumulate, and there would be no practical result. It would be in the interest of the business of the House that that possibility of obstructing measures should be removed. He thought all Members should have an opportunity of expressing their opinions at some early stage of a Bill. Unless the House adopted the Amendment, Members might not have such an opportunity until the Report stage.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'during the time for opposed business.'"—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN opposed the Amendment. If a Bill came up for Second Reading after the time for opposed business, a Member had only to say "I object" in order to stop the Bill. He could not accept the proposition that a Bill which passed the Second Reading without opposition should not go to a Grand Committee.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said a Member might be willing to let the Second Reading go through, but wish to discuss certain details, and he might not have any opportunity at all of being on the Committee. Small Bills which might be very useful would be put an end to by this procedure. He believed the rule would work out in a way entirely different from what had been anticipated.

LORD R. CECIL said there was a point which had not been touched upon in the debate. In the case of a highly contentious Bill under discussion at ten minutes to five on a Friday afternoon, the closure might be moved and accepted. There would be a division on the closure, and another division on the Second Reading at ten minutes past five. The Second Reading might be carried by a small majority, and under present circumstances the House would never think of sending it to a Grand Committee. But under this rule it would necessarily go to a Grand Committee. In the case of a private Member's Bill, the only way to prevent that would be for the Government to give an opportunity on some other occasion to move that it be not sent to a Grand Committee. In the case of Government measures it was a common thing for the Second Reading to take place after eleven o'clock. Each of these Bills would in future go to a Grand Committee, although the Government might not desire it. It might therefore be necessary to make a Motion on a subsequent day in order to prevent its being sent to a Grand Committee. But the House would not necessarily have the right of vetoing a Bill going to a Grand Committee. It would entirely depend on whether a Motion could be brought on at a later stage to determine whether that could be prevented or not. Surely therefore, the Amendment was necessary.

SIR F. BANBURY said the Prime Minister, in refusing to accept the Amendment of his right hon. friend, stated that he did not want to draw a distinction between private Member's Bills and Government Bills. He thought that was such an excellent argument that he voted with the Prime Minister on that occasion. He did not want the Prime Minister to be inconsistent. If the Amendment was not accepted there would be no opportunity for anyone after eleven o'clock to state his reasons why a Bill should not be sent to one of the Grand Committees. It was quite true that on the following day a Motion could be made if the Government gave time, but they all knew that the Government would not give time. The result would be that if this Rule were agreed to no private Member's Bill would be passed. Under these circumstances, although personally he was not much in favour of private Member's Bills, he believed the rule to be disadvantageous.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not rise to discuss a question of policy, but what he wanted to know was how the Government thought their Resolution would operate. He would take a case familiar to the whole House. Supposing a Bill were discussed from twelve o'clock to ten minutes to five on the Friday, followed by a division on the closure and a division on the Bill, it would be by that time ten minutes past five o'clock; and the Bill would automatically go up to the Grand Committee. It could not be brought back, except by a new Resolution bringing it out of the purgatory of the Grand Committee to the heaven of the whole House. He did not wish to delay the House, but he hoped the Government would give a reply on that point. Suppose it was a Government Bill, and carried by closure, the same thing would happen.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said that if the Government were of opinion that a Bill was strongly contested, and should not go upstairs to a Grand Committee, they would make a Motion to that effect immediately after the division on the Second Reading, and that motion would be divided upon at once, and without discussion. [OPPOSITION cries of "It cannot be done."]

LORD R. CECIL said that in future the Motion that a Bill be not referred to a Grand Committee would be in the same position as the Motion now to refer a Bill to a Standing Committee.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that his right hon. friend had stated the intentions of the Government. If they were not carried out by the words of the Resolution on the Paper, Amendments would be proposed by the Government.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he wished to point out that a greater difficulty might arise at the end of a Second Reading debate. A Motion might be made by the Government to except the Bill, and another by a private Member to send some portions of the Bill to the Grand Committee, and retain the remainder of the measure for the consideration of the Committee of the whole House. It was quite evident that some provision must be made for the consideration of that important point.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said that the Government seemed to have got themselves into some difficulty, and in order to give them a chance of thinking over their proposals again, he moved the adjournment of the debate.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY seconded the Motion.

Motion made and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned,"—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

As amended, considered.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that on the Second Reading two questions were raised by himself and other hon. Members for the consideration of the Secretary of State for War. The first point was met by an Amendment of his right hon. friend on the Committee Stage, and he now proposed to raise briefly only the second question. Many hon. Members would remember that for many years past, whatever Government was in power, some of them had raised questions on this Bill affecting not only legislation by reference, but something much worse than legislation by reference, because the liberty of the subject was more concerned by this measure than perhaps by any other legislation which could come before the House. This was not an ordinary Bill, but it legislated by reference not to other Acts of Parliament but to rules which might be altered by the Secretary of State for War. He proposed to omit in this clause words which gave powers wholly indefinite to persons who were not necessarily in a responsible position and who were unknown to the House. It would be necessary to search through 1300 pages of small type to find out all the Rules and Orders referred to in the original Statute, and this Bill proposed to re-enact the original Statute with Amendments which made the law harsher and more vague than it was before. He proposed to omit in Clause 10 the words which would give to assistant provost-marshals the powers of governors of military prisons, conferred from time to time by the Secretary of State. Those powers might be altered and the provost-marshal need not necessarily be a responsible person. He believed that during the late war persons were appointed as provost-marshals who were civilians. In debate certain questions were put to his right hon. friend which, as regarded himself and the future, must be looked upon as a satisfactory assurance, but he wished to press upon the

House the advantage of caution in legislating upon a subject which was so dangerous to personal liberty. His right hon. friend, as he understood him, promised that a Committee should sit at once and that a code of Rules should be drawn up, and that Parliament should be made acquainted with those Rules. He understood his right hon. friend to undertake that those Rules should not be lightly set aside; that was to say that, although they would not be of a statutory character, they would be permanent as far as his right hon. friend was concerned. There was something further, however, which he had to ask for, and that was as to the unknown persons who exercised these powers of assistant provost-marshals. During the late war they were appointed in a hap-hazard manner and there was nothing to prevent them from being persons of no high authority. He therefore thought that before they passed the Bill through this stage they ought to have an assurance from his right hon. friend not only as to the character of the Rules but as to the persons who should exercise these powers. He moved in Clause 10, page 5, line 32 to leave out the words "and his assistants."

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 10, page 5, line 32, to leave out the words "and his assistants."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) explained that in the field in time of war, when the duties of the provost-marshal came into operation, it was impossible for that officer to discharge all the functions himself. The theatre of war might extend over hundreds of miles, and he must have assistants. Who those assistants were to be must be determined by the authorities on the spot. The best was done in the circumstances, but it was one of the disagreeable incidents of war that arrangements were constantly thrown into confusion. To leave sufficient latitude he had agreed to lay the Rules on the Table, and if any subsequent alterations were made those also would be laid on the Table. No doubt in time of war the best people were not always selected for this and other positions, but the best would be done that circumstances would allow.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) suggested that the Rule should be to appoint as assistant provost-marshals commissioned officers not below the rank of captain. That being the rule, exceptions might be allowed when circumstances demanded them.

MR. HALDANE promised to endeavour to see that assistants should be always commissioned officers unless in exceptional cases, and where possible of the rank of captain.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

FRANCHISE AND REMOVAL OF WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

IRISH TOBACCO BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Adjourned at a quarter after
Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 26th March, 1907.

The Lord RIBBLESDALE—Sat Speaker.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill. (No. 26.) Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. (No. 27.) Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

Fitz Gerald's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence taken before this House, together with the proceedings, and the documents deposited in the case; Ordered to be communicated, with a request that they may be returned.

Annefield Plain and District Gas Bill, Bude Gas Bill, Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill, Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill, Falmouth Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill, Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill. Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Committee to consist of five members to join with a Committee of this House to consider the said Bills, and request this House to appoint an equal number of Lords to be joined with the members of their House.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3748. Persia (Ispahan and Yezd).
No. 3749. Roumania (Supplementary).
No. 3750. West Africa (Liberia).
No. 3751. Mexico (Budget).

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).

Returns for the year 1905–1906.

RAILWAY COMPANIES (ARRANGEMENTS).

Correspondence between the Board of Trade and the Railway Companies Association with regard to certain arrangements entered into by railway companies with regard to rebates on traffic, etc.

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).

Thirteenth Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufacturers in Scotland, for the year ended 30th September, 1906.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, AND VACCINATION.

Fifty-second Annual Report of the Registrar-General in Scotland, for the year 1906; and Forty-second Annual Report on Vaccination.

LICENSING STATISTICS, 1906.

Statistics as to the operation and administration of the laws relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor, for the year 1906.

CROFTERS BUILDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886–1887.

Report by the Crofters Commission, being for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury minutes, dated 6th and 20th March, 1907, respectively, declaring that the following persons were appointed without Civil Service certificates, through inadvertence on the part of the heads of their department, viz.:—William Edwards, artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, War Office; Walter Henry Jeakins, clerk, Post Office.

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (IRELAND)).

Annual account of receipts and disbursements for year ended 31st December, 1906.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

Annual report on the state of the finances of the University of Aberdeen, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889, for the year 1905–1906.

POST OFFICE.

The Foreign and Colonial Post Amendment (No. 15) Warrant, 1907, dated 14th February, 1907.

LIGHTHOUSES, ETC., (LOCAL INSPECTIONS).

Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, of their inspection of local lighthouses, buoys, and beacons (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 92, of Session 1906).

NAVAL AND MARINE PAY AND PENSIONS ACT, 1865.

Orders in Council, dated 1st March, 1907, approving memorials of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty praying,

That they may be empowered to award at their discretion to the Commanders-in-Chief at the three Home Ports such rate of commuted allowance, in lieu of servants, within a maximum of £500 a year, as the circumstances of each case may require.

For sanction to certain modifications in the existing system of clothing and bedding gratuities to petty officers, seamen and boys.

For sanction to the payment of the allowance of 2d. a day now paid to Royal Marines when employed as tailors to any rating when so employed.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE).

Returns of receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the branch councils; also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday the 15th of April next. [No. 25.]

House adjourned at a quarter past Three o'clock, to Monday, the 15th of April next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 26*th March*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bude Gas Bill (Prince of Wales' Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Falmouth Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Private Bills, etc. Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 128, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any Documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, also for depositing at the Private Bill Office all documents relating to any Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act, 1861, in the matter of certain lands in the parish of Keadby, in the county of Lincoln (parts of Lindsey)," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 140.]

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act, 1861, in the matter of the Oulton, Carlton, etc., Marshes, in the parishes of Oulton, Carlton Colville, and Barnby, in the county of Suffolk," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of

Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 141.]

Worthing Gas Bill; Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill; Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill; Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Rights of Way (Scotland) Bill. Order for Second Reading upon Wednesday, 10th April, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Amman Valley; Ashton's Green; Bedwellty; Blaenavon; Bond's Main; Caeglas; Carway; Cawdor; Coedmoeth; Cross Hands; Cwm Veg; Daldowie; Emlyn Lodge; Gelly Ceidrim; Glangarnant; Gorseygarnant; Great Mountain; Hartshead; Maesmarchog; North Blaina; Pantyffynnon; Park; Pochin (No. 2); Rhos; Rock Lodge; Waterloo; White Rose; and, Whitwick Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against; from Edinburgh; and Stonehouse; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Findochty; and, Orkney; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVAL AND MARINE PAY AND PENSIONS ACT, 1865.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 1st March, 1907, approving a Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty praying, (1) that they may be empowered to award at their discretion to the Commanders-in-Chief at the three home ports such rate of commuted allowance in lieu of servants, within a maximum of £500 a year, as the circumstances of each case may require; (2) for sanction to certain modifications in the existing system of clothing and bedding gratuities to petty officers, seamen, and boys; (3) for sanction to the payment of the allowance of 2d. a day, now paid to Royal Marines when employed as tailors, to any rating when so employed [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).

Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BOBBINITE.

Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee on Bobbinite; Report and Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MEDICAL COUNCIL.

Accounts presented, for 1906, of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 11, 1907).

Copy presented, of Accessions of British Colonies, etc., to various Treaty Engagements between the United Kingdom and Foreign Powers [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS (AGRICULTURAL LAND).

Return ordered, "showing the acreage, situation, tenancy, and rent of the Agricultural Land, with or without buildings, belonging to charities comprised in the Report to the Charity Commissioners, completed in 1905, of inquiries held in respect of every parish wholly or partly within the administrative county of London, except Charities for educational or religious purposes."—(*Sir William Collins.*)

EAST INDIA (PUNJAB) (INQUIRY INTO DEATHS FROM TETANUS).

Address for "Return of Papers containing the results of an Inquiry into the origin of certain Deaths from Tetanus in the Punjab, consequent on the employment of Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic against plague."—(*Sir William Collins.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Appointment of Magistrates.

MR. PARTINGTON (Derbyshire, High Peak): To ask the Prime Minister if he can state the number of magistrates appointed since 1st February, 1906, and how many were appointed in the preceding five years.

(*Answered by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*) The number of magistrates appointed since 1st February, 1906, in Great Britain is 3,213. The number of magistrates appointed in the preceding five years was 6,032.

Prosecution of Philip Stokes for Intimidation at Killenaule.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that a man, named Philip Stokes, was charged at Killenaule Petty Sessions, in the county of Tipperary, at the suit of the Crown, with having, at Ballingarry on the 24th December and on other occasions, used intimidation towards Thomas Bradley, on account of his working for a person, named Butler, who grabbed the farm from which Stokes was evicted, and was bound to the peace for twelve months or in default to go to gaol for one month, which alternative the defendant chose; and whether having regard to the fact that the magistrates would not allow the defendant or his witness, Mr. Dalton, to give evidence for the defence, he proposes to take any, and if any, what, action in the case.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) This is not a matter in which I have any authority or jurisdiction to interfere. The action of the magistrates in refusing to hear evidence for the defence was, I believe, technically correct, following the decision of the King's Bench Division in the case of Halpin (Appellant), Rice (respondent) (1901), 2 Ir. R., 593.

Inquiry into Indian Railway System.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for India, in connection with the answer given by him to the Indian railway deputation on 12th March, when he intends to institute the departmental inquiry into the working of the financial system; what will be the scope of the inquiry; and what will be the constitution of the body to which it will be entrusted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The matter is under consideration, but I am not yet in a position to make any public statement about it.

Newspaper Postage Rates.

MR. ELLIS DAVIES (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that *The Lady* newspaper can be sent by post for ½d., whilst the carriage of a parcel of newspapers of the same weight is 4d., he can consider the question of reducing the cost in the latter case, and so remove the difficulty of the supply and distribution of newspapers in thinly populated districts.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Under the Act of 1870 *The Lady*, as a registered newspaper, can be sent by post for ½d. in the United Kingdom irrespective of its weight. The postage upon a parcel of newspapers not exceeding two pounds in weight is not necessarily 4d. If the papers contained in the parcel are registered newspapers the total postage upon it would be ½d. for each one enclosed, unless the charge by weight were cheaper. Inasmuch as the statutory newspaper involves the Post Office in a considerable loss of revenue, I do not see my way to reducing the postage upon newspapers as the hon. Member suggests.

Charge for Post Office Hampers at Innellan Pier.

MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): To ask the Postmaster-General why the payment by the Post Office for parcel hampers passing over Innellan pier has been stopped, seeing that such payments continue to be made at Clyde piers having similar Provisional Orders; and whether he will cause payment to be resumed in the case of Innellan.

(*Answered by Mr Sydney Buxton.*) I will have inquiry made on this point, and will send the hon. Member an answer.

Vacancy for Overseer at Brighton Post Office.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a vacancy has existed among overseers in the telegraph department at Brighton since June last; and whether in view of the stagnation of promotion, he will direct that the post be filled.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The promotion has now been made; the delay, which I regret, was due to various causes.

Money-lending Practices.

Mr Lea (St. Pancras, E.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General if his attention has been drawn to the remarks of the assistant judge of the Lord Mayor's Court in regard to the scandal arising out of money-lending transactions with city clerks; and whether there is any possibility of the Moneylenders Act, 1900, being amended so that a judge can, at any stage of proceedings before him, reopen the transaction.

(*Answered by Sir Lawson Walton.*) The Amendment required appears to be in the direction of an alternation of county court procedure which will obviate the difficulty which has been experienced in the application of the Act. My hon. friend will do well to refer the subject to the consideration of the Lord Chancellor.

Territorial Army—Appointment of Divisional Generals.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): To ask the Secretary of State for War if any of the divisional Generals to be appointed in connection with the territorial forces will receive their appointments before the end of 1907–8, in order to begin the work of organising the new Army.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War how many divisional Generals will be appointed in connection with the territorial forces.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) It is impossible to say at present whether matters will be sufficiently advanced during the course of the financial year 1907–8 to permit of the appointment of any of the divisional Generals. It is proposed that the number of divisional Generals shall be ultimately fourteen.

Ammunition for Cadet Corps.

Mr. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the total sum voted under all heads of the Army Estimates for cadet corps during 1906–7; and what is the total amount to be voted for 1907–8.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No amounts are estimated for cadet corps as such, the only direct expenditure involved being that for ammunition. The cost of the ammunition may be roughly estimated at about £3,000.

Claims of Messrs. Fowler and Company against the Spanish Government.

Mr. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of the fact that Messrs. Fowler and Company, British subjects, of Cienfuegos, Cuba, have claims against the Spanish Government for large amounts arising from damage to their Cuban property caused by Spanish troops; and whether, seeing that these claims were filed with the British Consul-General at Havana as far back as November, 1897, he will take steps to induce the Spanish Government to deal with the matter without further delay.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I am fully cognisant of the claim referred to, which was presented to the Spanish Government by His Majesty's Embassy at Madrid so far back as January, 1898. The long delay which has occurred in the settlement of the claim is much regretted by His Majesty's Government, who have not failed, however, to make use of every opportunity of pressing for its payment. I understand it is the case that all Colonial claims against the Spanish Government, those of Spanish subjects as well as of foreigners, have been subjected to a similar delay to that inflicted on Messrs. Fowler, and an early settlement seems unfortunately improbable, as, according to law dated 30th July, 1904, no money can be paid until an Inter-Departmental Committee, which is still engaged on its labours, has examined and reported upon all the claims which have been brought forward.

Death of Ellen Simpson.

Mr. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Ellen Simpson, who was shown at the inquest held as to her death at Stepney, on the 16th March last, to have died from heart failure accelerated by want; and, if so, whether any relieving officer or other officer of the Stepney Guardians was present at the inquest; and at what date would particulars of this inquest be sent to the Local Government Board by the Home Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I understand that deceased and her sister had been refused outdoor relief, and that they declined to go into the workhouse. They appear to have been unable to look after themselves. No relieving officer was examined at the inquest; the woman had been in the district only a few days, and no relieving officer unfortunately knew anything of the case. Particulars of deaths from starvation or deaths accelerated by privation in 1907 will be furnished about March next, and sent to the Local Government Board. I am bringing the case to the notice of the Local Government Board.

Cost of Poplar (Hutton) Schools.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, seeing that the 33rd Annual Report of the Local Government Board on page 477 gives the cost to date of the Poplar (Hutton) schools at £144,725, and seeing that he stated in Parliament last year that the cost had been greatly added to for that year, he can state why no reference is made to the expenditure in the 34th Report of the Local Government Board, and why there is no reference to the further cost of these schools in the 35th Report of the Local Government Board.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The particulars on page 477 of the 33rd Annual Report of the Board did not give the cost to date of the schools. What the table containing these particulars does show is (as appears from the heading at the commencement of it) the amount of the expenditure authorised during the year 1903. The statement made by me in Parliament last year, which is referred to in the Question, is, I presume, the Answer I gave to a Question by the hon. Member on 25th June last.† If so, I would point out that I did not state that the cost had been greatly added to for that year. I gave the total sum which had then been sanctioned in respect of the provision of the schools, viz. £156,545. Of this amount the sum of £11,820 was sanctioned in 1900, and £144,725 in 1903. As nothing was sanctioned in respect of the schools in 1904 or 1905 no reference was made to the cost of them in the Reports for those years.

Carriage of Australian and New Zealand Mails.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Postmaster-General if the British Post Office makes any fixed contribution in respect of New Zealand and Australian mails carried between San Francisco and Auckland and Sydney by the Oceanic Steamship Company (Spreckel's line), or if the carriage is simply paid on poundage rates; if he is aware whether the system is also pursued by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand; and if it would be more economical, more expeditious, and more advantageous to send these mails viâ Vancouver instead of viâ San Francisco.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Payment for the conveyance of British mails from San Francisco to Auckland and Sydney is made by the British Post Office to the United States Post Office at the usual Postal Union transit rates. I understand that, under the recently-terminated contract between the Oceanic Steamship Company and the New Zealand Post Office, payment was made to the company for mails conveyed from Auckland to San Francisco at poundage rates, but subject to a fixed minimum and maximum in each year. I have reason to believe that the Australian Post Office also pays the company at poundage rates. The Answer to the last part of the hon. Member's Question is in the negative.

Elections of Parish Councillors.

MR. : To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to numerous complaints of the rushing of meetings by the chairmen and of intimidation of villagers during the recent parish council elections; and whether, in order to secure a true expression of local opinion on such occasions, he will introduce some simple method of balloting to be compulsorily adopted at all such meetings, in lieu of the method of a show of hands,

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clix., 620.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have received some complaints as to irregularities at the recent parish council elections, but they have been very few. The Local Government Act, 1894, requires that the election of parish councillors shall be at a parish meeting or at a poll consequent thereon, and there is a good deal of difficulty in arranging that the voting at an election at a parish meeting shall be by ballot. I will, however, take note of the suggestion of my hon. friend.

Abatements of Pay Consequent on Granting Civil Service Certificates to Temporary Clerks.

MR. : To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that while Civil Service certificates have been either granted or promised to certain of the temporary civil assistants of the Ordnance Survey the *quid pro quo* demanded by the Treasury in abatement of pay is to date from 28th November, 1906; and that this abatement is to be paid up in bulk by the 31st March; and whether he will arrange that the abatement should date from the granting of the Civil Service certificates.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The date fixed for the commencement of the abatements from the pay of those civil assistants who are placed on the establishment is that of the Treasury letter sanctioning the grant of pensions; and I am not prepared to vary it.

British Sea Fisheries Inquiry.

MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the terms of reference to the Committee to be appointed to inquire into and advise the Government as to scientific research and the sea fisheries will be made sufficiently wide to include, not only a Report on the North Sea fisheries investigations, but also other researches which have been carried out on the British coasts.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Yes, Sir.

Legal Assistance for Irish Poor Law Guardians at Local Government Board Inquiries.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether when an inquiry is held into any charges which may be made against Poor Law officials in Ireland, an allowance is made by Government to defray the costs of employing the necessary legal assistance by the official concerned, even if the charge be proved to be absolutely unfounded; and, if not, whether he will take steps to amend the law in this respect.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Answer to both parts of the Question is in the negative. I am not aware of any reason why the Government should pay the costs referred to.

Irish Land Purchase—Copies of Maps.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that when maps in connection with the sale of an estate are lodged with the Estates Commissioners, and the owner in the course of the sale requires to inspect them, the Commissioners will not return them or allow tracings to be taken by the solicitors for the owner, but charge £4 or £5 for supplying tracings; is not such charge contrary to Rule 45 of the Land Commission Rules of October, 1903; and whether he will suggest that greater facilities for the return or inspection of maps pending sale should be afforded.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they cannot allow original maps to be taken out of the office after the property to which they relate has been inspected and the maps certified by their staff. Prior to such inspection, maps are continually allowed to be taken out. Every facility is given to solicitors who wish to take tracings, and no such charge as that mentioned in the Question has been made for supplying tracings. If solicitors require copies of the estate maps, they are supplied at the customary rates. The supplying of such copies does not come within the meaning of Rule 45 referred to.

Purchase of Untenanted Land of the Blacker Douglas Estate, North Kerry

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that about 400 acres of untenanted land on the Blacker Douglas property, near Asdee, North Kerry, has been offered to the Estates Commissioners for the reinstatement of evicted tenants and the giving of plots of land to labourers; whether this land has been inspected and reported on; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have not yet had this estate inspected. The maps of the property have had to be returned to the owner for amendment. A survey will next have to be made, and, after that, the inspection. These stages will take some months to complete.

Flooding of Tenants' Holdings at Lixnaw, North Kerry.

MR. FLAVIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what action the Estates Commissioners have taken in connection with the tenants' holdings at Lixnaw, on Lord Listowel's estate, North Kerry, which are subject to floods; and whether, before the sale is sanctioned, the Estates Commissioners will see that the tenants are adequately safeguarded.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are at present considering the question of retaining, out of the purchase money of this estate, a sum with the object of providing assistance in the maintenance of the waterways, embankments, and sluices in the district.

Housing of Working Classes Act at Roscrea.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say why the Local Government Board prevented the Roscrea Rural District Council from putting into operation in the town the provisions of The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, although the people of the town requested the district council to do so; and if he can say what powers rural district councils have under the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have received no application from the Roscrea Rural District Council for carrying out a housing scheme under The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. Rural district councils can only exercise the powers under Part II. of the Act which relates primarily to the closing and demolition of buildings unfit for human habitation and to the removal of obstructive buildings.

Appointment of Warrant Officers in the Army Ordnance Corps.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the practice of appointing non-commissioned officers from other branches of the service to be warrant officers of the Army Ordnance Corps, though there are in the Army Ordnance Corps plenty of qualified men; in how many instances in the past ten years have such appointments been made; and will he take steps to secure to the men of the Army Ordnance Corps the preferential right to promotions in their own corps over outsiders.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This practice was adopted in 1896 on the recommendation of a Committee, and the appointments were divided equally between the non-commissioned officers of the Army Ordnance Corps and those of the rest of the Army. In 1904, owing to the increase of non-commissioned officers in the Army Ordnance Corps, it was decided to give them appointments in the proportion of four to three given to the other non-commissioned officers. Eighty-two outside appointments have been made in the past ten years out of a total of 170. It is not proposed to make any alteration in the present system.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Medical Treatment for Sailors.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the notice published and displayed at recruiting stations by the Admiralty informs intending naval recruits that medicines and hospital treatment, both at home and abroad, are provided at the Government expense; whether he is aware that Article 1420 of the King's Regulations exacts stoppages of from 4*d.* to 10*d.* per day from the full pay of all men and boys checked sick for over 30 days from ships at home, or invalided home from ships abroad; whether these stoppages from sick men's pay are in fact made; and, if so, whether he can explain the grounds upon which the terms of the recruiting notice in question are held to be justified.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): As a matter of fact medicines and free treatment for thirty days in hospital are given. The pamphlet issued also for recruiting purposes states this with clearness. Steps will be taken to amend the notice referred to, which is a general statement only, so as to prevent misapprehension.

Invalided Consumptive Soldiers.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that only some 6 per cent. of soldiers discharged from the Army last year suffering from tubercle of the lung were sent to hospitals or sanitoria, while more than 70 per cent. were sent direct to their homes, he can take steps to ensure that a larger proportion shall in future be sent to institutions where they can receive proper treatment

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The disposal of soldiers invalided with tubercle of the lung is a matter involving several difficult considerations, and I propose to institute a small Committee to advise as to what steps it may be practicable to take in the direction indicated by the Question. I hope my hon. and gallant friend will give his services to this Committee.

War Office Forage Contracts.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the quantity of hay and straw bought by the War Office in any given year, say 1906; the average cost per ton; and what proportion of the total quantities was imported.

MR. HALDANE: The information required by the first and second parts of the Question could only be obtained by calling for Returns from all stations at home where Army horses are foraged. As regards the last part of this Question, the contracts do not contain any specification as to sources of supply, and therefore no definite information could be obtained.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Does the contract contain no provision that the forage shall be home grown?

MR. HALDANE: No, Sir.

Presbyterians and the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is prepared to alter the regulations of the Ecclesiastical Establishment in India so that he may consider nominations for the present and future vacancies as Presbyterian chaplains from ministers and licentiates of Presbyterian churches other than the Established Church of Scotland.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): The establishment of Chaplains in India, which is regulated by 3 and 4 Will. IV., ch. 85, sec. 102, has always consisted of Chaplains of the Church of England and of the Church of Scotland, and the statute specifies the qualifications to be possessed by the latter, and the manner in which they shall be appointed. In these circumstances the Secretary of State is advised that it is doubtful whether the regulations can legally be altered so as to provide for the nomination of ministers not belonging to the Church of Scotland, and he is not prepared to take any action of the nature suggested.

Volunteer Reserves in British Protectorates.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any encouragement is given by the Government to British Colonists joining Volunteer Reserves in British Protectorates in Africa; and, if not, whether the Government will consider the advisability of making grants out of the revenues of individual Protectorates for this purpose.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale, for Mr. CHURCHILL): In all the British Protectorates in Africa, except Somaliland, where local conditions do not lend themselves to such an arrangement, grants are made in support of Volunteer Corps, and every encouragement is given to such Corps.

Steamship Communication with East Africa.

*Mr. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the British Possessions of British Central Africa and North Eastern Rhodesia are dependent upon the steamer service of the Deutsche Ost Afrika Line, which is raising its rates as each British company successively withdraws from the sea-borne trade at Chinde; and whether the Government will take any action to counteract the effect of the subsidy enjoyed by the above-mentioned German line.

Mr. HARCOURT: The Secretary of State's information does not show that the possessions referred to are entirely dependent on the German Line; but I may say that the subject of steam communication with East Africa is at present engaging particular attention.

*Mr. REES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that I have good grounds for saying that no English Line now calls regularly at Chinde, and can give him my reasons for saying so?

Mr. HARCOURT: The Colonial Office will be glad of any information my hon. friend can supply.

Cape Breton Immigrants in Canada.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that at the Collieries of Cape Breton British immigrants recently arrived in Canada are seeking employment without success; and, seeing that they assert that they have been misled by British agents in this country, will he order some inquiry to be made on the subject.

Mr. HARCOURT: There is no official information on the subject, but inquiries will be made.

New Hebridean Natives.

Mr. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Colonial Office is in possession of any Reports on the physical condition of the natives of the New Hebrides; whether they are, like the natives of all the other tropical Pacific Islands, a delicate people unaccustomed to and incapable of continuous work; whether they are fitted for arduous work in the mines of New Caledonia or in the sugar fields of Fiji; and whether they are likely to die off rapidly if compelled under indentures to work for ten or twelve hours a day.

Mr. HARCOURT: Natives of the New Hebrides under indentures do not work in mines in any place under British authority. His Majesty's Government have not and never have had any responsibility for, or power to control foreign recruiting in the New Hebrides for other places. The Secretary of State is not aware of any special reports on the physical condition of natives of the New Hebrides; but the last available mortality returns of Polynesian Islanders recently working in the sugar districts of Queensland and in Fiji point to no unfitness for field-work such as the hon. Member suggests.

Mr. FELL: Does the return apply to women and children?

Mr. HARCOURT: It applies generally, I believe, to the islanders.

Fiji Sugar Cane Industry.

Mr. FELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he has received any report on the health of the natives employed on the sugar-cane fields of Fiji.

Mr. HARCOURT: The Secretary of State has not received any special report upon the health of the natives employed in the sugar fields of Fiji, but he receives periodical reports on the health of the natives generally, and the hon. Member can see the latest of these reports if he cares to call at the Colonial Office.

New Caledonian Mines.

Mr. FELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he can supply any particulars of the mines in New Caledonia where the natives from the New Hebrides are to be engaged to work, whether they are gold, or silver, or what metal, and whether they are worked by underground or by open workings; and what is the annual death rate among the workmen employed in them.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): Such information as we possess respecting New Caledonia is contained in the Consular Report No. 3548, issued last year. The question of whether natives of the New Hebrides are to be engaged for work in New Caledonia, and the conditions under which, if engaged, they will work there is not one which should be addressed to His Majesty's Government or as to which they can reply. I may add further that the French authorities have hitherto possessed an unrestricted right of obtaining labour from the New Hebrides for New Caledonia, and that, though they are now bound by certain regulations, they retain jurisdiction over French citizens in the New Hebrides, as we do over British subjects.

Transvaal Ministers' Salaries.

MR. LIDDELL (Down, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the salary to be paid to General Botha, as Prime Minister of the Transvaal Colony; how does the salary compare with the salary, if any, received by Dr. Jameson, as Prime Minister of Cape Colony; and will he also state the salaries received by the Prime Ministers of Natal, the Dominion of Canada, the Australian Commonwealth, Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, West Australia, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania.

MR. HARCOURT: I have no official information on the subject. Dr. Jameson, I understand, does not draw any salary, The following appear to be the figures in other cases:—Natal £1,364, Canada $12,000 Commonwealth of Australia £2,100, Queensland £1,300, Victoria £1,400, New South Wales £1,570, Western Australia £1,200, South Australia £1,000, New Zealand £1,600, Tasmania £950.

MR. LIDDELL asked whether it was not the fact that General Botha was receiving a salary of £4,000 a year, and each of his Ministers £3,000.

MR. HARCOURT: The Colonial Secretary has no official information as to the salary that General Botha is receiving.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Does Dr. Jameson get any remuneration from the Limited Liability Companies?

Australia and the Western Pacific.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what are the matters connected with the Western Pacific, other than the New Hebrides Convention, in connection with which the representations were made by the Commonwealth Government to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which are alluded to in two despatches in Cd 3288.

MR. HARCOURT: The matters other than the New Hebrides to which reference was made in the Secretary of State's despatch of the 20th April, 1906, were the question of the transportation of convicts to New Caledonia, and the claim of Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co. against the German Government.

Railway Extension in Northern Nigeria.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any instructions have been given to Sir Percy Girouard as to reporting on railway extensions in Northern Nigeria; and, if so, whether he has been instructed to report at the same time on the present ownership of the land along the proposed line of railway, and as to proposals for securing for this country or the Colony any increased value of the land within five miles of the proposed railway track.

MR. HARCOURT: Sir Percy Girouard has been instructed to report on the subject of railway construction in Northern Nigeria. No specific instructions have been given to him to report on the present ownership of the land through which railways may pass, but it is thought that under the laws already in force in Northern Nigeria the necessary facilities exist for securing for the Government the increased value of any land within a reasonable distance of a railway. His attention will, however, be called specially to the point.

Mr. WEDGWOOD asked whether, seeing that the course of the railway was more or less known, the Colonial Office would take any steps to prevent land speculation pending the actual arrangements made for testing the increased value of the land.

Mr. HARCOURT: I will see that the hon. Member's wishes are represented to the Secretary for the Colonies.

Turco-Persian Frontier Commission.

Mr. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Turkish Commissioners for the rectification of the Turco-Persian frontier arrived in Mosul on 5th July last, and at once proceeded to Passovah to meet the Persian Commissioners; whether any result has yet been reached; and, if not, whether His Majesty's Government, in pursuance of the policy followed in this question since 1843, will now endeavour, in conjunction with the Russian Government, to bring about a speedy settlement of the dispute.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The Joint Commission which met at Mosul in July last was not productive of any definite results. A fresh commission has, however, recently met at Mosul. His Majesty's Government have not yet received any reports as to its proceedings, and I cannot add anything to my previous Answer.

Macedonian Budget—Charges for Turkish Troops.

Mr. LYNCH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will ascertain from the British financial delegate on the Macedonian Reform Commission the number of Turkish troops charged to the Macedonian Budget during 1906; and whether any extra expenditure in connection with the contemplated reorganisation of the 3rd Army Corps at Salonica will be chargeable to that Budget.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The Financial Commission have no knowledge of the details of the military Budget, and could not supply the information desired by the hon. Member. For the latter part of the Question, I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer returned to his Question on the 20th instant.†

Mr. LYNCH: That Answer was no reply to my Question as to the number of troops chargeable.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I have not the figures by me.

Turkish Customs Duties on British Goods.

Mr. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in the condition proposed by His Majesty's Government and accepted by the Porte and the Powers with regard to the imposition of extra three per centum Custom duties upon British imports into Turkey, there is any provision which will prevent the allocation of Turkish funds set free by those new duties to the financial assistance of the proposed Baghdad Railway.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I have nothing to add to the statements made by me on the 14th instant,‡ till Papers can be laid.

Condition of Morocco Prisons.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the improvement in the condition of Morocco prisons has ceased, and that things have reverted to their former condition; that the prison inspectors have been dismissed; that gaolers have little and, in some cases, no pay; that the Government provides no food for the prisoners; and that the prisons are filthy, insanitary, and full of vermin; and, if so, whether he will instruct the British Minister at Tangier to consult his colleagues as to the necessity of drawing the attention of the Moorish Government to the condition of the prisons, with a view to immediate improvement.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I have received no official information to show that the state of affairs in the prisons of Morocco has recently deteriorated, but I will instruct His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to furnish me with a report on the subject.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 849.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 226.

New Caledonia.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state how many convicts are now in New Caledonia; and whether they are still being sent there by the French Government.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I beg to refer the Hon. Member to the Consular Trade Reports for 1903–4 and 1905, No. 3431 and No. 3548 Annual Series, and to my Answer given on the 20th to the hon. Member for Sheffield.†

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Are the French authorities still sending convicts there?

SIR EDWARD GREY: They have informed us they have no present intention of sending more convicts there. I may remind the hon. Member that New Caledonia is French and not British territory.

Congo Free State.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that King Leopold has offered opposition to any communication being made, on the part of the Congo Free State, to the Belgian Parliamentary Committee with reference to the budget of the Free State and the financial accounts of the past three years; whether the new Colonial Council will be, as a matter of fact, composed of officials and officers appointed by the king; and whether he can furnish the House with any information on these questions.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot make any statement on these points, which it is understood are under discussion by the Parliamentary Committee in Belgium. Pending that, it cannot be known what the result will be.

The Assuan Dam.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that the Council of Ministers at Cairo has decided to increase the height of the Assuan Dam in order to increase the present storage of Nile water for irrigation purposes; whether he is aware that this scheme will further submerge the temple and island of Philæ; whether archæological experts can hold out any hope under the circumstances of being able to save these ancient monuments from irreparable injury; and, if he finds it possible, will he make a reassuring statement on the subject.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for East St. Pancras on this subject. The question of the temples of Philæ is fully dealt with in the despatch from Lord Cromer which will be laid before the House.

Concessions in Mesopotamia.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that a concession of the petroliferous deposits in Mesopotamia was granted by the Porte on the 4th–17th July, 1904; that this concession was given on that day to the Company of the Ottoman Railway of Anatolia, represented by Mr. Zander, in conformity with an Iradé of the Sultan; whether he is aware if such concession is still in force; and whether, if he has no information on the subject, he will make inquiry by telegraph of His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have nothing to add to my statement of 22nd instant,‡ and I am not of opinion that any useful purpose would be served by telegraphing to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. I cannot publish private information about concessions.

United States and Canadian Tariffs.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the negotiations between His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington and the United States Government embraced the tariff relations of the United States and Canada; and whether it is a fact announced in New York that the United States Secretary of State has proposed the adoption by Canada of the United States tariff as laid against Great Britain and all other countries, and then to establish free trade between the United States and the Dominion.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 846–7.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxi, 1265.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The general negotiations respecting commercial reciprocity which were left unsettled in 1898 have not been reopened in recent negotiations with the British Ambassador, and have formed no part of them. In answer to the latter part of the Question, His Majesty's Government have not heard of any such proposal having been made.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Would the Ambassador be empowered to enter into such negotiations?

SIR EDWARD GREY: He is empowered to do the best he can to settle outstanding questions between the United States and Canada. As the House is aware, there were questions respecting commercial reciprocity left unsettled, and these would technically form part of the outstanding questions; but, as a matter of fact, in the negotiations that have taken place, neither the United States nor Canada, so far as I know, has shown any desire to reopen that question.

Charity Lands and Land Tax.

MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge): On behalf of the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk, I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that, owing to the recent decisions in the High Court (Curtis *v.* Old Monklands Conservative Association), trustees of charity lands are not now entitled to relief from land tax, even though the income from such lands is under £160 per annum; and, seeing that in all such cases where the income of such charity lands provides gifts in money or kind for poor persons the fact that land tax is now charged reduces such gifts, to the disadvantage of the poor, he will, at the earliest moment, take such steps as are necessary to remedy this state of affairs.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): I sympathise with the position of small charities which find a concession withdrawn, which, through a mistaken view of the law, has in fact been allowed to them for several years. On the other hand, the necessities of the individual recipients of charity have no necessary relation to the total income of the particular charities from which they receive relief. A charity with a total income of £1,000 may provide small allowances for 100 beneficiaries, while one with £150 may have to provide for only one or two. There is, therefore, it seems to me, no inequity in saying that all charities shall be treated alike, without regard to the amount of their total income, as the law (as now ascertained) says they shall be treated. Charities as such have never been exempted from land tax, and, as at present advised, I am not prepared to propose legislation on the subject.

Beer Tax.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a recent Return has shown that a considerable proportion of the beer brewed in this country is almost entirely brewed from malt and hops; and whether he can favourably differentiate in the coming Budget in the taxation of such beer as compared with that levied upon beer brewed largely from malt substitutes.

MR. ASQUITH: It is true that "a considerable proportion of the beer brewed in this country is almost entirely brewed from malt and hops." It is, however, also true that, in substituting a beer duty for the old malt duty in 1880, Mr. Gladstone made "freedom of the mash-tun" a prominent condition of the change, and that no good reason has ever been shown for departing from that condition. I may refer the hon. Member to the Report of Beer Materials Committee, No. C. 9171 of 1899.

Sale of Silver to the West Indies.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the profits made by the Imperial Government from the sale of silver to the West Indian Colonies in each year from 1900 to 1906 inclusive, respectively.

MR. ASQUITH: The estimated profits in the years named were: in 1900, £29,606; in 1901, £15,309; in 1902, £7,029; in 1903, £2,207; and in 1906, £33,324. In 1904 and 1905 there were no profits.

Post Office Savings Bank.

MR. VIVIAN (Birkenhead): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered altering the investments of the Post Office Savings Bank, now in Consols, into Irish land stock while prices are about the same for both, with a view to increasing the income of the Post Office Savings Bank, and putting them on a more solvent basis.

MR. T. L. CORBETT asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would delay the consideration of this suggested treatment of Irish land stock until the Irish Government measure was introduced.

MR. ASQUITH : The Answer to that is in the negative. At the 31st March, 1906, the Post Office Savings Bank Fund held £2,321,000 guaranteed 2¾ per cent. stock out of a total amount of such stock then created of £13,197,000. At the same date, the Fund held £60,617,092 Consols. So that the substitution which my hon. friend suggests would be only practicable (if at all) within rather narrow limits. Quite apart from this, however, there are many reasons which would make the Trustees of the Fund hesitate to embark upon such an operation—particularly under present conditions.

*MR. CHIOZZA MONEY : May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in consideration of the very great success which has attended the Belgian Government in applying Post Office savings to the erection of houses for the working classes, he can see his way to introduce legislation with a like object here ?

MR. ASQUITH : I am not sure that that arises out of the Question. At any rate, I should like to have notice of the Question.

Income-Tax.

MR. VIVIAN : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that people holding securities on money borrowed from banks have, in some cases, to pay both the tax on their own income and also on the interest paid to the banks, on which the banks also pay the tax, the Exchequer therefore receiving it twice over ; will he in such cases see that repayment is made so that income-tax is only paid on the owner's true income as intended by the 1890 Act ; and will he take into consideration so amending the Law that there shall be no uncertainty on the point.

MR. ASQUITH : The result indicated in the Question may arise, but, as far as possible, the Board of Inland Revenue endeavour to meet such cases by allowing repayment of tax on the interest paid to banks by borrowers, whenever the circumstances admit of it, and any case of hardship, if brought before them, is always carefully considered. I fear that such difficulties can hardly be altogether avoided under the system of tax by deduction, and an amendment of the Law to meet all cases would be extremely difficult to frame.

London Omnibus Service Tickets.

MR. STANGER (Kensington, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that certain omnibus companies in London issue to their passengers tickets on which are printed numbered sections and nothing more, whereas other companies indicate clearly on their tickets the point to which the passenger is entitled to be carried for the fare he pays ; and whether, for the convenience of the public, he will take steps to make the latter practice obligatory in all cases.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) : I have no power to insist on uniformity of practice in respect of the details shown on omnibus tickets, but I will call the attention of the Commissioner of Police to the point raised by my hon. friend.

The Crown and the Police.

*MR. REES : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are any reasons why the police are not included in the civil services of the Crown ; and whether such exclusion extends to the higher and highest or is limited to the lower and lowest ranks.

MR. GLADSTONE : The police forces of England and Wales were created and are maintained, not by the Crown, but by a large number of police authorities under statutes wholly different from those regulating the civil service of the Crown. The only exceptions are the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police who are appointed by the Crown, and for whose salaries provision is made in the Votes.

Adulteration of Calico—Sunderland Death.

Mr. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the inquest held at Sunderland on 18th March instant as to the death of Ann Wilson, aged sixteen years, during the hearing of which the house surgeon at the infirmary said that death was due to blood poisoning, which had been set up by the dressing from the calico, the coroner further remarking that the calico was laden with as much dressing as manufacturers cared to put into it for trade purposes, either to obtain a better price for it or to improve its appearance; and, if so, whether it is his intention to introduce any legislation having for its object the restriction of the sale of calico containing matter of such a dangerous character.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have obtained a piece of this calico and I am taking steps to obtain an expert opinion upon it and upon all the circumstances of the case.

Inspection of Omnibus Tickets.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, seeing that omnibus companies are in precisely the same position as licensed cabs and have no legal right to demand payment of fares in advance, will he state whether he proposes to take any steps to prevent omnibus passengers being annoyed by inspectors entering the 'bus and demanding inspection of tickets.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I do not think the occasional inspection of omnibus tickets is unreasonable or that it causes annoyance. Payment in advance seems calculated to avoid delay when the passengers descend, but in any case I have no power to interfere. It must not be understood that I accept the view of the law taken by the hon. Member.

Licensing Justices' Liabilities.

Sir H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that licensing justices who have incurred expenses in the work of referring licences to compensation authorities, or in supporting their objections before quarter sessions, have been rendered personally liable for such expenses; and whether, in dealing with the licensing question, he will endeavour to prevent their being so penalised for the discharge of duties imposed upon them by the Act of 1904.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I am aware that one of the difficulties which confront licensing justices in the performance of their duties is the pecuniary liability to which they may be exposed. I have the point under consideration.

Crime in West Suffolk.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that during the year 1905 there were in the West Suffolk administrative county 228 indictable offences committed known to the police and 817 non-indictable offences; whether these offences comprised, amongst others, one case of malicious wounding, one case of rape, two cases of indecent assault on females, four cases of larceny of horses and cattle, nine cases of arson, three cases of burglary, six cases of housebreaking, 175 cases of larceny, and two cases of perjury; if he can state how many of these offences were committed in the Bury St. Edmund's district; and, if these figures accurately represent the amount of crime in this administrative county, what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Yes. The figures given in the Question correspond with those given in the Criminal Statistics for 1905. The Returns do not show in what part of the county the offences were committed. The amount of crime in West Suffolk is not more than in many other rural counties, and I believe the police are quite able to cope with it.

Alien Criminals in London.

Mr. LIDDELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department the number of aliens summarily dealt with and convicted by the various magistrates in the Metropolitan Police area during each of the past five years for which Returns are available, the nationality of the aliens so convicted, and the nature of the offences for which they have been convicted.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state the number of aliens convicted each year during the last five years for which Returns are available for indictable offences at the Old Bailey, the Clerkenwell Sessions, and the South London Sessions, the nationalities of the convicted aliens, the various terms of imprisonment inflicted, the number of cases of aliens reported for deportation, the actual number of aliens deported for criminal offences, and the total estimated cost to the Treasury already incurred during the past five years, and to be incurred before their sentences expire, in bringing alien criminals to conviction at these courts and in maintaining them in prison after conviction.

MR. GLADSTONE: I regret that I cannot reply to the detailed Questions put to me, as the information necessary for the purpose is not available, and could not be obtained with any substantial degree of accuracy, even by a most laborious search. I can, however, say that in the last five years for which the figures are available there were received into London prisons on conviction, summary or other, the following numbers of persons who, according to their own statements, were born in foreign countries:—In 1901, 1,667; in 1902, 2,090; in 1903, 2,132; in 1904, 2,309; in 1905, 2,206. Further, in the year 1906, the first year of the operation of the Aliens Act, 332 aliens were recommended by metropolitan Courts for expulsion; and out of these 202 were expelled during the year, many of the aliens being at the end of the year still in prison undergoing their sentences. I may add that full information as to the operation of the expulsion provisions of the Aliens Act is in preparation and will be published in due course.

Insanitary Workshops.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints as to dirty or otherwise insanitary workshops and factories have been sent by the Factory Department to the metropolitan borough councils during the twelve months ending 28th February last; also the number of prosecutions instituted and cases brought before the court by officers of the metropolitan borough councils for overcrowding or insanitation in such factories or workshops.

MR. GLADSTONE: The number of notices sent by the men inspectors to the metropolitan borough councils during the period named in the Question with regard to insanitary conditions in factories and workshops was 488. I have not been able at such short notice to obtain the number of those sent by the women inspectors, but the number in 1906 was 298. I have not the number of prosecutions instituted by the borough councils in respect of insanitary conditions during the period in question, but the figure for 1905, as given by the returns of the medical officers of health, was nineteen.

Juvenile Woman Suffragists.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he proposes to take any action to prevent the importation of young girls, bereft of proper protection, into London, in order to swell the ranks of organised processions and demonstrations of suffragettes.

MR. GLADSTONE: I fear I can add nothing to the answer which I gave yesterday to the hon. Member for the Brigg Division.†

*MR. REES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that yesterday's question was particular and this is general?

MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid I must argue from the particular to the general.

London Police Libraries.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any, and, if any, how many, new books were added to the libraries of the M Division of Metropolitan Police during the year ending 31st December, 1906; what was the cost of the new books;

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 1509.

whether the constables have any voice in the selection of the books; if not, who selects them; and whether, as nearly every metropolitan borough has adopted the Free Libraries Act, he will consider the advisability of discontinuing the contribution now required from every constable to maintain libraries, and advise them to take advantage of the facilities offered them by the free libraries.

Mr. GLADSTONE: The contribution referred to is nominal in amount, being only a penny a month. It provides not only books but also newspapers for the recreation and library rooms. The existence of free libraries does not meet the needs served by the stations' libraries. No money appears to have been spent on new books in the M Division during 1906, but there was expenditure on newspapers, etc. Constables, as a rule, have a voice in the selection of books, as it is desirable they should, and where, if anywhere, this practice does not exist, it will be arranged for.

Dr. COOPER asked if the police, or many of them, were not householders and as such had to pay the free library rate. Why should they be compelled to subscribe to the police library?

Mr. GLADSTONE: It is a very small amount, and I do not know that it is really compulsory, but I will inquire on that point.

Manchester Unemployed.

Mr. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that at the beginning of the present month the names of over 800 unemployed were on the Manchester Distress Committee's register, that the number is increasing, and that only about one-fourth are classed as general labourers; whether an adequate grant is to be made from the funds at his disposal in aid of this committee's farm colony, now being worked with a view to men supporting themselves and their families; and whether he contemplates making proposals which may remove the difficulties of the local authorities whose employment schemes he does not approve or cannot assist.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): I am aware that there is a considerable number of persons on the register of the Manchester Distress Committee, but I have not seen the figures mentioned by my hon. friend. I have received an application from the committee for a grant for the purpose to which he refers, but I have not felt able to comply with it. The answer to the last part of the Question must be in the negative.

Treatment of Casual Paupers.

Mr. W. R. REA (Scarborough): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the custom of certain workhouse authorities not to liberate the inmates of casual wards until late in the morning following the second night of their sojourn; and whether he will take steps to put an end to the practice, with a view to facilitating the inmates' securing work elsewhere.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: An order of the Local Government Board issued in 1892 requires that a casual pauper, who has been detained for more than one night, and who represents that he is desirous of seeking work, shall be allowed to discharge himself at half-past five in the morning in the summer, and at half-past six in the winter, provided that whilst in the casual ward he has performed the prescribed task of work to the best of his ability. I am not aware of cases of failure on the part of workhouse officers to comply with this requirement, but if any instance of the kind is brought to my knowledge I will give attention to it.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: Is there any idea of carrying out the suggestions of the Committee recently appointed in regard to this matter?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I suppose the hon. Member refers to the Committee on Labour Tests. The Local Government Board and the Home Office are considering that Report. It has not been before us very long.

Married Women's Liability.

Mr. NEWNES (Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he proposes to take steps to render a married woman with separate estate liable to contribute towards the maintenance of her parent, seeing that a son with property or with sufficient wage-earning capacity is so liable.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have stated in reply to previous Questions that I have taken note of this point, but that I cannot promise to introduce legislation on the subject at the present time. I have, however, brought the matter under the notice of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law, who have before them the subject of the contribution by persons to the support of their relatives.

The Unemployed Fund.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will give the names of the twenty-two towns in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales that have made applications and been refused a grant out of the £200,000; and whether he will state the number of men who have registered their names as being out of employment in the same towns.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I will send my hon. friend the names of the twenty-two distress committees to which I referred in my answer to his Question on Friday last, and I will add particulars as to the number of applicants for assistance who were registered up to 1st February.†

Automatic Stamp Machinery.

MR. LIDDELL (Down, W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will arrange for automatic machines for the supply of penny and halfpenny stamps to be placed on the various railway stations, so that the public may be enabled to procure stamps on Sundays, Bank Holidays, and at other times when the post offices are closed.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Experiments are being made with certain automatic machines for the supply of postage stamps, and, if the result is satisfactory, machines will be placed where they are most likely to meet a public demand.

MR. LIDDELL: If the machines are found to be satisfactory will the right hon. Gentleman place them at railway stations?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The hon. Member must allow me time. We have not yet got a satisfactory machine. When we have, I will consider what are the best positions for the public convenience.

MR. LIDDELL: I have tried the machine myself and found it very satisfactory.

Leeds Sorting Office Staff.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that excessive overtime is being worked by the staff in the sorting office at Leeds; whether this could be obviated by an increase in the staff dealing with circulars, and the appointment of an adequate substitution staff with well-defined duties, such staffs not to be drawn upon for duties other than those for which they were established; and, if so, whether steps will be taken at an early date to deal with this matter.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Additional force has of late been employed in the sorting office at Leeds, and the amount of overtime duty performed has been much reduced. A revision of the establishment is under consideration, and the matter will not be lost sight of.

Delay in Leeds Postal Appointments.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that there are a number of young men at the Leeds post office whose appointments are delayed, contrary to the provisions of the circular of the Civil Service Commissioners, which states that appointments are made, after passing examination, in six to twelve months; that the men in question have been in the office from three and a half to two years, doing the work of the appointed staff for from 4s. to 6s. per week less; and whether, seeing that this delay is preventing proper increase in increments, loss of holiday, and loss of pension, steps will be taken to inquire into, and deal with the matter at an early date.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 1273.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: Four of the male learners at Leeds have been appointed recently to the establishment, and I hope shortly to be able to arrange for the appointment of others. The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that any of these officers were promised appointment after six or twelve months from their first employment. No such promise was given.

British Museum Reading Room.

Mr. RADFORD (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, in view of the closing of the Reading Room of the British Museum from 15th April till 31st October, and the inconvenience to be caused thereby to students and literary men and women who daily make use of the Reading Room, steps will be taken to minimise the inconvenience by providing temporary accommodation for the readers in the galleries of the Museum or elsewhere.

Mr. HARCOURT: I would refer my hon. friend to the printed Answer given yesterday by the Secretary of the Treasury to the hon. Member for Northampton, and circulated with the Votes this morning.† The matter is in the hands of the Trustees, and I have no power to make other arrangements.

The National Physical Laboratory.

Sir W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if certain officials of the National Physical Laboratory were some time ago engaged for approximately nine months on a research on gutta-percha for a private firm; if so, what fee was paid for the research; if it has been published and is accessible to the general public; and, if not, will he give orders for its immediate publication.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury): I am informed that the Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The fee paid was £502 17s. 4d. The chemical results arrived at were published in a paper by Dr. Caspari, which was printed in the Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry for 30th December, 1905, and in the Collected Researches of the Laboratory, volume II.; a copy of this has been placed in the library. The physical and mechanical results are in the Director's hands and could be published if necessary, but it has not been thought that they are of sufficient public importance to justify the expenditure.

Sir W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, during the last two years, the National Physical Laboratory has received approximately £15,000 from the Government in the way of grants; and, if so, what return the nation has received in the way of researches of national importance; and if he will state when and where such researches were published.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The sum of £15,000 has been received from the Government in the way of grants for buildings and equipment during the past two years. The buildings are now being erected and are for the most part still in the contractor's hands. Arrangements are well advanced for commencing work which will, it is confidently expected, yield satisfactory results.

Sir W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what is the total amount of money for the original equipment, and in the way of annual grants, which the National Physical Laboratory has received from Government up to the present time; and if he can give particulars of the results of any research which can be considered in any way an adequate return for the expenditure incurred.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The total amount of money received for the original equipment of the National Physical Laboratory was £19,000. The annual grants from September, 1899, to March, 1907, have amounted to £33,500 in all. Full particulars of the expenditure of these grants appear in the accounts of the Laboratory, presented annually to the Treasury. A list of the researches published is printed in the Report of the Laboratory for 1906, pp. 21–25. Copies of this Report have been placed in the Library and the more important researches, exclusive of those published from the Observatory Department, are marked with an asterisk. The results of the principal investigations also appear in the

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 1470.

Collected Researches of the National Physical Laboratory, two volumes of which have been issued and are in the Library; a third volume is in course of preparation. These volumes may be obtained from Messrs. Harrison and Sons, 45, St. Martin's Lane, the publishers for the Laboratory.

An HON. MEMBER asked whether it was not the fact that this institution, which was supported by State funds, was in competition with private manufacturers and undertook pure tests of conductivity which could be carried out by any physical chemist in his own laboratory.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) asked whether it was not the fact that our national expenditure on these matters was far too small.

MR. RUNCIMAN said the last Question involved a matter of opinion. There was a Departmental Committee of the Treasury now sitting to inquire into the working of the Laboratory, which he hoped would report shortly.

North Sea Fishery Investigation.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, having regard to the fact that a sum of £12,500 is placed on the Estimates for the current year for North Sea Fisheries investigation, Class 4, Vote 6 (Scientific Investigation), will he state the entire sum expended by His Majesty's Government up to the present time on North Sea Fisheries investigation, and what sum has been expended up to the present time by each of the other Powers participating in the investigation, seeing that this information is not contained at page 41 of Command Paper 2966 of 1906.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this Question. The amount expended by the Government on North Sea Fisheries investigations during the five years which end in July next will have been about £70,000. Information as to the estimated expenditure of other Powers will be found on pages 112 to 115 of Command Paper 1313 of 1903.

Tithe Rent Charge Redemption

MR. J. M. HENDERSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representating the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that, in an ordinary case of reapportionment or redemption of a small amount of vicarial tithe rent-charge in the parish of Epping, Essex, No. 16940, the Board of Agriculture have been occupied more than two years, and have not yet completed the requisite formalities; and whether he can see his way to provide some method by which this delay may be avoided, and greater facilities afforded for carrying out such applications in future, in order that the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries may be better enabled to relieve certain payers of tithe rent-charge from paying for properties belonging to other owners without adequate means of redress.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: Although some preliminary inquiries were addressed to the Board in this case in March, 1905, the formal application for redemption was not received until April, 1906. A survey of the lands was then necessary, but owing to the pressure of work in the Department it was unfortunately impossible to get this completed until early this month. The order for redemption has now been made and the proceedings will be completed with the least possible delay.

Anthrax Outbreaks.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that, for the week ending 9th March last, there were twenty-eight outbreaks of anthrax and thirty-six animals attacked by the disease in seventeen different counties in England, Wales, and Scotland; whether in consequence of the spread of anthrax throughout the country, which is not only financially disastrous, but dangerous to human beings who have to deal with it, the Board of Agriculture will institute an inquiry as to the origin of the disease and as to what steps should be taken to stamp it out; and whether consideration will be given to the question of the desirability of paying compensation to those who have suffered heavy losses through the disease.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: The Answer to the first part of my hon.

friend's Question is in the affirmative, but I am happy to say that the disease is not increasing throughout the country, the number of cases this year being slightly less than in the corresponding periods of 1905 and 1906. Investigations are proceeding both as regards the nature of the disease and the means by which it is spread, and any amendments in the existing Orders on the subject which may appear to be necessary will at once be made. The Board are only empowered to pay compensation where animals are compulsory slaughtered. In the case of anthrax it is, as a general rule, inadvisable to resort to slaughter owing to the extreme danger of spreading the disease if any of the blood is spilt.

House Attendants and All-night Sittings.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Mid-Derbyshire, as Chairman of the Kitchen Committee, how long the female attendant was on duty at the staff bar in the House during the sitting of Wednesday-Thursday, and what extra pay she received for her services.

SIR J. A. JACOBY (Derbyshire, Mid.): In reply to the hon. Member there are two female attendants in the staff bar. The female attendant was relieved from duty on Thursday morning at 9 o'clock, and will receive two days extra pay. The all-night sitting of the House puts a great strain on the Kitchen Committee. The manager is instructed to work the staff in sections, and relieve them once or twice during the sitting.

Island of Lewis Herring Fishery.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland in view of the inability of the fishermen in the Island of Lewis to provide themselves with steam drifters for the prosecution of the herring fishing, will the Congested Districts Board consider the expediency of granting loans to Lewis fishermen for the acquirement of steam drifters, especially in view of the assistance rendered to the Irish fisheries by the Government.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The Question of granting loans to fishermen for the purchase of fishing boats has been carefully considered, and has been rejected as, on the whole, inexpedient.

Scottish National Galleries—Board of Trustees.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that, under the Act of last year, the Board of Trustees to manage the National Galleries of Scotland must be established by 1st April, is he now in a position to announce the names of the chairman and members of the Board.

MR. SINCLAIR: Not yet; I hope to do so shortly.

School Board Register.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the number of persons in Scotland, especially in the Highland crofting counties, who have no votes at school board elections by reason of their rentals being under £4, will he arrange to deal with the school board franchise in the new Scottish Education Bill.

MR. SINCLAIR: As I yesterday informed the hon. Member for Sutherland, it is proposed under the Bill to make the school board franchise the same as that for parish council elections.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): Will it be the same franchise as is used in the county council elections?

MR. SINCLAIR: Yes, I think so.

Scotland and the Education Grant.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, having regard to the £100,000 that it is proposed to vote to England and Wales for school buildings out of Imperial funds, he has arranged to get an equivalent grant for Scotland.

MR. SINCLAIR: No, Sir.

Scottish Poor Law Medical Relief.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Secretary for Scotland, whether, in view of the fact that parish councils cannot use money out of the rates to compel a medical man to provide an assistant for the general benefit of the public, he will put into operation the powers of the Local Government (Scotland) to protect the interests of the poor.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am informed that the Local Government Board for Scotland have no authority to see that medical assistance is provided other than for the legal poor; the duty of provision for them lies with the parish council.

Loch Ness Fishery.

MR. J. DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware that a conviction under the Salmon Fishing Act of 1844 was recently obtained in the Inverness Sheriff Court against a Fort Augustus angler for fishing in Loch Ness; if he is aware that the public have from time immemorial exercised unchallenged the right of fishing in Loch Ness, which is a navigable loch; and if he will take the necessary steps to ascertain what are the rights of the public in this matter, and, if necessary, to protect them.

MR. SINCLAIR: A conviction was recently given, as stated. I am not aware as to the exercise by the public of the right of salmon fishing in Loch Ness; as far as I am informed it does not appear to differ from other lochs in Scotland in this respect; if my hon. friend desires me to do so, I will make further inquiry upon that point.

MR. J. DEWAR: Will the fishing rights in Loch Ness come within the inquiry to be held into Scottish riparian rights generally?

MR. SINCLAIR said he could give no definite pledge as to the scope of that inquiry, and he would like notice of questions as to particular fishings.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs): Will inquiry be made as regards other lochs?

MR. SINCLAIR: I understand the law is the same for all lochs of the same character.

Beauly and Ness Fisheries.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the names of the landlords who claim fishery rights to the estuary of the Ness and Beauly rivers; and to what extent those rights extend seawards from the mouth of the Beauly and Ness rivers respectively.

MR. SINCLAIR: My right hon. friend has asked me to reply. I have made inquiries, but I have not yet been able to obtain sufficiently accurate information to enable me to give an answer to my hon. friend.

Reenard Pier.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to state what steps, if any, will be taken to build a pier at Reenard, county Kerry, under the Marine Works Act.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I regret that I am not yet in a position to make a definite statement on this subject. The funds available under the Marine Works Act are now very limited, as the hon. Member is aware. The claims of Reenard and other places to assistance from the fund are at present engaging the attention of the Irish Government.

Cooscroum Landing Stage.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the application to the Congested Districts Board for improved landing facilities at Cooscroum, county Kerry, was made before the Marine Works Bill was introduced, and that no application for assistance under the Act has been made; and whether, in view of the necessity for improvement at this important fishing cove, the Congested Districts Board will deal with this application out of the funds placed at their own disposal, without reference to applications made for other works of a different nature under the Marine Works Act.

MR. BIRRELL: The proposal to build a landing place at Cooscroum was under the consideration of the Congested Districts Board so far back as 1892, but Coonana was decided upon as a more suitable site and a pier was built at that place. The question has been renewed in recent years, but the Board have decided to postpone its consideration until it shall be ascertained what works are to be carried out at Reenard Point, and what contribution, if any, they may give to such works. The matter will be again brought before the Board at their meeting next month.

Cattle Ranches in King's County.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a portion of the Fuller estate at Woodfield, Clara, King's County, consisting of 140 Irish acres, exclusive of wood and bog land, now let on the eleven months grazing system by the Receiver in Chancery, the owner being of unsound mind; and whether, in view of the fact that there are tenants on other parts of this estate living under miserable conditions on holdings of a few acres of bog land, he will advise the Estates Commissioners to contemplate the purchase of this cattle ranche for the economic enlargement of the holdings of such tenants and the provision of holdings for their sons, who are walking about unable to find employment; and whether he would also recommend the Estates Commissioners similarly to consider the case of another cattle ranche of a thousand acres on the estate of Mrs. Jane Bailey, at Ballycumber, King's County, with a view to the enlargement of uneconomic holdings or the reinstatement of evicted tenants, or both purposes combined.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners are unable to trace any proceedings for sale as having been instituted before them in respect of the estates mentioned. If the hon. Member will furnish them with particulars of the estates and the names and addresses of the owners or their agents, the Commissioners will inquire whether the estates are for sale.

Teaching Staffs of Irish Schools.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education have officially stated that it was impracticable for one teacher to instruct separately and efficiently six different classes, as was the case in small schools under the results system; and, if so, whether, in the case of such teachers who did not receive their training diplomas owing to service under these circumstances, and who have given thoroughly satisfactory service under the new system, the issue of these diplomas would be reconsidered, or is it the intention of the Commissioners to penalise permanently those teachers for unsatisfactory service under conditions which the Commissioners have admitted to be impracticable for success and have revised.

MR. BIRRELL: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that a statement to the effect mentioned was made in their introduction to the revised programme of instruction issued in 1901. This statement, which should be read with the context, formed part of an exposition of the necessity for altering the methods of school organisation which existed under the obsolete system of payment by results. Training diplomas are awarded by the Commissioners to King's scholars who, after training, have given two years satisfactory service as teachers. The Commissioners see no reason to reconsider cases in which diplomas were disallowed after adequate time had been afforded to King's scholars to earn them by satisfactory service. I will send to the hon. Member a detailed statement which I have received from the Commissioners, giving their reasons.

Sugar Beet Cultivation in Ireland.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the result of the tests of the growing of sugar beetroot in Ireland compare favourably with the production in the great sugar beet countries of the continent; and if he can give any estimate of the amount of the acreage in Ireland suitable for growing sugar beet, and how many tons of sugar such an acreage would produce according to the results of the latest tests.

MR. BIRRELL: In the opinion of the Department of Agriculture the Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The Department are not in a position to estimate the acreage in Ireland specially suitable for growing sugar beet, and consequently are unable to state the number of tons of sugar which it might be possible to produce.

If the hon. Member will refer to my Answer to the Question put by the hon. Member for South Sligo, on 27th February,† he will see that the Department do not consider that beet could be made as remunerative a crop as other root crops now grown in Ireland.

Lord Crofton's Roscommon Estate.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a representation was made to the Commissioners last month by the small tenants in the Ogulla district, Tulsk, Roscommon, asking for the purchase and redistribution of the grass lands on the estate of Lord Crofton, Moate, county Roscommon, with a view to relieving congestion and preventing emigration; and whether he can say with what result.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received a memorial to the effect mentioned from certain tenants on the estate of Lord Crofton, and have referred it for inquiry to their inspector, who is dealing with the estate. The inspector's report has not yet been received.

Ballynanty Evicted Tenant.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have instructed or will instruct their inspector to use his best endeavours to arrange between Mr. Smith, owner of the Ballynanty property, near Bruff, or his agent, Mr. White, of Limerick, and Mrs. Hartigan, of Clorane, Croom, county Limerick, so as to give her back her evicted farm in Ballynanty.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have had this case investigated by an inspector. The owner declines to reinstate Mrs. Hartigan, upon the ground that her husband was not evicted, but surrendered his leasehold interest in the farm, and signed a formal deed of surrender. The Commissioners will further consider Mrs. Hartigan's application in connection with the allotment of any untenanted land which they may acquire in the locality.

Moohan Evicted Tenant.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, can he say whether the Estates Commissioners, through their inspector or by private correspondence, have as yet been able to induce Mr. Courtnay Croker, landlord, or Mr. John Barrington, agent, of the Moohan property near Herbertstown, county Limerick, to get Timothy Kirby, planter on the farm of Mr. Michael Power, to leave the farm on some consideration and hand it back to the owner before the vesting order will have been issued to all the other tenants.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have not yet been able to effect any arrangement in the case referred to, but will direct their inspector when visiting the estate to ascertain from Kirby the terms, if any, upon which he would be prepared to surrender the holding.

Manister Evicted Tenant.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners, through their inspector or otherwise, have endeavoured to make some arrangement for reinstatement to his farm on the lands of Beltyville, Manister, county Limerick, between the landlord, the Reverend Mr. Lee, or his agent, Ernest Brown, of Limerick, and the evicted tenant, Mr. Edmond Hartigan, of Patrickswell, Holycross, Kilmallock; and, if such has not yet been done, will he use his influence in that direction.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have had the case of Mr. Hartigan investigated by their inspector, whose report has been received and is awaiting their consideration.

Knocklong Evicted Tenants.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, can he say whether the negotiations for sale and purchase between the Misses Cooper and their tenants around Knocklong, county Limerick, have as yet resulted in an application for the sale of the estate before the Estates Commissioners; and will he use his influence with the Estates Commissioners and Messrs. Sanders, of Charleville, county Cork, agents to the property, so as to restore to their holdings the evicted tenants, Thomas Barry and John M'Grath.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 53.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement from the evicted tenants mentioned, and are in communication with the owner with the object of procuring an inspection of the holdings formerly occupied by these persons. Proceedings have recently been instituted before the Commissioners for the sale of the tenanted portion of the estate in question, but the case has not reached its turn to be dealt with.

Anghavas Evicted Tenant.

MR. THOMAS F. SYMTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners will have Mrs. Alice Reilly reinstated on the farm of land in Anghavas, on the estate of Lord Harlech, in county Leitrim, from which her late husband was evicted; and, as the man who is in occupation of the farm at the present time is willing to take compensation, if steps will be taken to have this evicted tenant restored to her home without further delay.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have investigated Mrs. Reilly's case and have ascertained that the former holding is now occupied by a permanent tenant. The Commissioners have decided that they cannot at present take action in the matter, but they will consider Mrs. Reilly's application in the event of their having any untenanted land in the locality to dispose of.

Lord Dunraven's Tenantry.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will arrange that the Estates Commissioners, now that Lord Dunraven and his tenants around Adare, Croom, and elsewhere have arranged as to terms of sale and purchase, shall also arrange between his Lordship and George Spearing, of Beabus, and Thomas Drew, who are yet unsettled for owing to inundation of land caused by hatcheries on the river Mague put down by the landlord, and eviction in the case of Mr. Drew.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have fully considered the case of George Spearing, and have decided to take the necessary steps to declare Spearing to have purchased his holding at their estimated price. The inspector's report as to the case of Thomas Drew has not yet been received.

Tyrone Orangeman.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland has been called to the speech delivered by Mr. Averell Lloyd at the annual soiree of the Tannamore Loyal Orange Lodge, county Tyrone, No. 513; whether he is aware that this gentleman incited his hearers to obtain arms and teach their children how to use them; whether Mr. Averell Lloyd holds the commission of the peace; and whether he has been asked for an explanation of the language attributed to him.

MR. BIRRELL: I am not aware whether the Lord Chancellor's attention has been directed to the speech in question. According to a newspaper report which I have seen, Mr. Lloyd urged his hearers to provide arms for their own protection, and teach their children to use them. Mr. Lloyd holds the commission of the peace. I do not think it necessary to call the Lord Chancellor's attention to the matter.

MR. LUNDON: The advice is a double-edged sword which can cut both ways.

Knockrow Outrage.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, on the night of 8th March, fifty-six yards of wall, along the public road, were knocked down on the farm of Patrick Raftery, at Knockrow, Kilchreest, county Galway; and whether any persons have been arrested in connection with this outrage.

MR. BIRRELL: The police authorities inform me that on the night of 8th March a loose stone wall bounding Mr. Raftery's farm was thrown down. No arrest has yet been made.

United Irish League—South Galway Branch.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the South Galway executive of the United Irish League, at a meeting held on Sunday, 10th March, ordered the herd on the farm of Patrick Raftery, at Knockrow, Kilchreest, county Galway, not to work any longer for his master, because Raftery had taken the farm from which a former tenant had been evicted; and whether he will see that the herd in question has ample protection in case he continues to work for Raftery.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Is this the branch of which the Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board is a member, and have any other members of the Government joined it?

MR. BIRRELL: I only know what appears in the papers. I read it that the branch referred to was at Peckham. A report has appeared in a local newspaper to the effect that Mr. Raftery's herd was to be asked to cease working for his master, but the police authorities have no information that this alleged intention has been carried out. The police will afford due protection to the herd if any necessity should arise.

Irish Judges' Addresses.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has seen a Report of an address delivered by Mr. Justice Kenny to the grand jury of Roscommon, in which it was stated that there was veiled intimidation in that county; whether this statement was contained in a Report presented by the police authorities to the Judge; if so, whether this Report was submitted to him before being presented to the Judge; and whether it will be published in order that the statements it contains may be checked.

MR. BIRRELL: The reply to the first two inquiries is in the affirmative, and to the third in the negative. It would be inconsistent with official practice to publish statements furnished by the police authorities for the information of the Judges.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Judge Johnson has condemned the practice of the police supplying these reports.

MR. BIRRELL: I saw that.

Irish Judges and Police Reports.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the substance of the Commission under which Judges of Assize in Ireland go on circuit; and whether any authority is given by such Commission to call for reports of crimes from the constabulary, or to comment in charges to grand juries on such reports or on the subjects with which they are conversant.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed by the Lord Chancellor that the specific powers vested in Judges by the Commission of Assize are, as regards criminal matters, to hear, examine, discuss, and determine on all treasons, murders, manslaughters, burnings, unlawful assemblies, felonies, robberies, extortions, oppressions, transgressions, crimes, contempts, offences, evildoings, and causes whatsoever within each county, as well against the peace and the common law as the form and effect of any statutes, ordinances, or provisions heretofore made; and also to deliver the gaols. The Commission goes on to command all officers and persons to aid, assist, and be obedient to the Judge in the execution of the premises.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): Does the same practice prevail in England?

MR. BIRRELL: So far as I understand it, the course, although not in identically the same words, is substantially the same in the two countries.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Has the Irish Judge authority to call for reports from the police. That is the point; and then we want to know further if there is an analogous practice in England?

MR. BIRRELL: There is no direct command to the Irish Judge to call for returns, but I think the words of the Commission authorise the Judge to obtain such information as may enable him to hear, discuss, examine and determine cases coming before him.

MR. HAYDEN: Will the Irish Government consider the advisability of issuing an order to the police not to furnish such reports in the future and thus bring the practice of the two countries into conformity?

MR. BIRRELL: Before I answer that I must find out what the practice in England is.

Dublin College of Science and Art.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the whole of the exterior and interior stone facings for the College of Science and Art, Dublin, will be of Irish stone.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I have nothing to add to the numerous replies which have been given on this subject.

MR. HALPIN: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that stone quarried in North West Clare is some of the best obtainable? Will he not see that it is used in these buildings?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I have been told that Irish stone is of the highest possible quality, but I cannot undertake to decide as between different classes of Irish stone.

The Hague Conference.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he has received a resolution passed unanimously by the Ontario Legislature, urging that at the forthcoming Hague Conference an attempt should be made to constitute it a permanent congress of nations; whether he has any knowledge of the views of other provinces or Colonies in this matter; and whether he will take steps to urge the desirability of such a permanent congress at the forthcoming Conference.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I have not received the resolution referred to, but I would point out that a permanent Court of Arbitration already exists to which outstanding cases have been referred.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) asked whether, in order to meet the wide and, he hoped, laudable public interest in this forthcoming Conference, its agenda, or, at any rate, the programme to be put forward by the British delegates, might as soon as possible be communicated to the House, and also the names of the British delegates.

SIR H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN: No doubt information as to this will be given in due time.

Exhibitions and the Colonial Conference.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will entertain the proposal to include among the questions to be submitted to the Colonial Conference the proposal to hold a great international exhibition in London at an early date, so as to learn the views of the Colonies on the matter which would exhibit to the world the resources of the Empire and tend towards its consolidation and development.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: As I informed the hon. Member on a previous occasion, I have no information about the proposal to hold an exhibition in London to which he refers.

Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when the Second Reading of the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill will be taken.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot fix a date at present.

Scottish Estimates.

MR. CROMBIE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will set aside a day soon after Easter for the discussion of Scottish Estimates.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid I cannot give any undertaking. The date for dealing with the Estimates depends on a variety of considerations.

The Channel Tunnel.

Mr. BYLES: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government will lay any Papers setting out the opinions of their military or other advisers upon which they based their condemnation of the Channel Tunnel scheme.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The decision of His Majesty's Government was arrived at on general grounds of policy involving more than purely military or naval considerations. It is not desirable that individual opinions as regards special aspects of the question should be made public.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. LANE-FOX inquired if it would be possible for the House to meet at noon on Wednesday instead of a quarter before Three o'clock.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND asked what business would be taken immediately after the holidays?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that, if he found it practicable and there was any general desire in that direction, he would propose that the House should meet at noon to-morrow. As it was necessary to secure the approval of the House before 7th April to the Liverpool and Hong-kong mail contracts, a Motion for the purpose would be the first Order of the day to-morrow, to be followed by the Motion for Adjournment. There would be no other Government business. On the reassembling of the House on Monday, 8th April, Supply, the Office of Works Vote, would be proposed for discussion; on Tuesday the Second Reading of the Army Bill, the debate to be continued, if necessary, on Wednesday; on Thursday (11th) the debate on procedure rules would be continued, if necessary.

An HON. MEMBER asked if there would be any business the next day beyond the Motion for Adjournment.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is necessary to secure approval of the Liverpool and Hong Kong mail contract before 7th April, and therefore that will be the first Order on the Paper. It is not expected to lead to any prolonged discussion.

Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston) asked the ruling of Mr. Speaker on a question general in character but having special reference to the action of the Patronage Secretary in regard to the Liverpool and Hong-Kong mail contract. A Motion to approve that contract had been on the Paper for several days, and he, wishing to put before the House grave considerations in relation to the subject, had made repeated inquiries of the Whips and of the Clerk as to when the Motion would be taken, but without getting any definite assurance. The Patronage Secretary was aware of his intention, and it was with much surprise he had heard that immediately before the rising of the House on the previous night an attempt had been made to smuggle the Motion through. He would ask what means Members had of ascertaining before the beginning of each day's sitting what business would be taken during the sitting.

*Mr. SPEAKER said the question had had a long preamble, with which of course he had nothing to do. As to the question itself, he had to say that the fact of the notice appearing on the Order Paper was an intimation to the House that the Government intended to take the Motion if they could, and if any Member was interested, it was his duty to be present when the Motion was called. Of course, it was always open to a Member to ascertain privately the Government's intention.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said he was not aware that the hon Member had a serious desire to raise a discussion on the contract, though there had been jocular allusions to the subject. The Motion had been put down in the usual way for the end of business and would have been taken in the usual way if it had not been blocked. The hon. Member knew perfectly well it was the intention of the Government to take it whenever they could.

Mr. HAROLD COX: Is it not possible, when the Government intend to take a Bill at a given sitting, for it to be signified in a special manner?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion appeared in the proper place and had no objection been taken it would have gone through in the ordinary way.

In reply to Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somerset, Wellington),

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the salary of the First Commissioner of Works would be reserved as a target for observations at a later period of the session, and would not be voted on the Thursday after the holidays.

NEW BILLS.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) asked the noble Lord the Member for Marylebone East if he was aware that the Small Cottages and Holdings Bill he proposed to present would shut out discussion of a Resolution on the same subject of which the hon. Member for Melton had given notice, and whether, in view of the Speaker's ruling on the previous day, he would refrain from presenting the Bill.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he had carefully considered the matter. He found that the hon. Member for Barnstaple recently placed on the Paper a notice in order to preclude the hon. Member for Norwood from raising a very important question in connection with the finances of the country, and did not remove it until the opportunity for effectively raising the question had passed. Again he noticed that the hon. Member for Loughborough proposed that day to present a Bill designed to prevent the House expressing its opinion on woman suffrage. Under the circumstances he did not see his way not to present his Bill, but if the hon. Member for Loughborough refrained from presenting his it might alter his view.

ADULT (WOMEN AND MEN) ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

"To enable all adult women and men to vote at Parliamentary Elections," presented by Mr. Levy; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 142.]

MUNICIPAL MILK DEPOTS BILL.

"To authorise and regulate the establishment of Milk Depots by certain local authorities, and for matters incidental thereto," presented by Mr. John Burns; supported by Dr. Macnamara; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 143.]

SMALL HOLDINGS AND COTTAGES BILL.

"To facilitate the supply of Small Holdings for occupying tenants and the building and improvement of Cottages," presented by Lord Robert Cecil; supported by Mr. Laurence Hardy; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 144.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE.)

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [25th March] to Question [20th March]. "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to (a) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (b) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders; (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Which Amendment was—

"In line 1, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'during the time for opposed business."—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) said that when the House rose on the previous night the Government found themselves in a position of considerable difficulty, and he ventured to say that they had not realised what the effect of these Resolutions was going to be. When he moved the adjournment it was not with any idea of obstructing the business of the House, but in order to give the Prime Minister an opportunity of reconsidering the whole question in view of the difficult position in which he found himself. The effect of the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Norwood was that only those Bills should be sent to the Standing Committees which had passed Second Reading during the time of opposed business. That, he ventured to say, was a most reasonable regulation, but it was one which the Government had refused to acquiesce in. They had listened yesterday to the speeches of the Leader of the Opposition, of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, and of the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone. They had brought arguments forward which the Prime Minister had not made any attempt to answer, but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able in a few words to say whether he was going to accept the Amendment, or to introduce words which would achieve the same object. The arguments addressed to the Government were unanswerable. It was absolutely essential that they should safeguard the interests of private Members, and see that Bills passed through the House during the time of unopposed business did not go upstairs automatically. He believed that was not the desire of the Government. The Prime Minister had said yesterday that it was very easy for any Member to stop any Bill that came before the House at the time for unopposed business; he had only to rise in his place and say he objected to the Bill. But the House knew perfectly well that it was not possible for all hon. Members to be continuously in the House, and to be ever on the look out for Bills to which they were opposed. He did not believe that hon. Members read the mass of private Bills sent to them from the Vote Office. It might happen that one of them had an inoffensive title, and hon. Members might think it unobjectionable and allow it to go through. If that happened, there was no one to prevent its going upstairs. On the previous day they had heard a very remarkable speech from the Chancellor of the Duchy in answer to a question put to him by the Leader of the Opposition who had placed before the Government the case of a Bill on a Friday when the closure was moved at ten minutes to five o'clock and the division on the Second Reading was not concluded until ten minutes past five. The Leader of the Opposition asked the Government what they were going to do with that Bill if they did not wish it to go upstairs to Grand Committee. He did not think that the Chancellor of the Duchy realised the state of affairs at all, because he replied that if the Government were of opinion that the Bill ought not to go upstairs they would at once make a Motion to that effect and a division would be immediately taken. But was it possible to make such a Motion as that after five o'clock? It was impossible for any individual to make it at all, and he thought that the reply of the right hon. Gentleman was inappropriate. He admitted that the Prime Minister did seem to realise the difficulty, for he had risen in his place and said that the Resolution was not intended to have the effect that they feared it would have, but that if it were found that it would have that effect, he would introduce words to guard against it.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) said it would save time if he informed the hon. Member that the Government had already put on the Paper notice of an Amendment. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman wished to say anything more on that.

MR. STANLEY WILSON regretted that he had not seen the words on the Paper. There was a very considerable number of Amendments and he had not run through them all. Therefore he had not at present realised what effect the form of words which the Government proposed to move would have, but he took the Prime Minister's assurance that they would have the effect with which his hon. friend would be satisfied.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he had not opposed the Motion for the adjournment of the debate last night for the simple reason that it was one minute to eleven o'clock, when it seemed unnecessary to do so. He had put the words on the Paper, and perhaps the House would allow him to expand them a little. The words were as followed—

> "Such Motion shall not require notice, may be made by any Member, and may be decided after the expiration of time for opposed business."

He thought that fully carried out the intentions of the hon. Gentleman.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said it would be more desirable to analyse the words of the Prime Minister when they came to the point in its order. The right hon. Gentleman would have to move them either in the form just laid down, or perhaps in some slightly amended form. Might he remind the House that really two points were raised in concluding the debate last night. One was dealt with by his noble friend the Member for East Marylebone and the other was chiefly dwelt upon by his hon. friend the Member for Norwood, in whose name the Amendment now before them stood. What the hon. Member for Norwood had in view was that there were Bills passed *sub silentio* after eleven o'clock, and that it was not desirable that such Bills should go automatically to the Grand Committees; in other words, that only Bills which had undergone a certain amount of discussion in the House should obtain the privileges that this Standing Order intended *prima facie* to confer on particular measures. That point had not been strictly before them, and was not covered by the words which the Prime Minister had read.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Gentleman press his Amendment?

Mr. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): Yes, Sir; I think under the circumstances I will press my Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 237. (Divison List No. 94.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balfour, Rt. Hn A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r Ham
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Bowles and Mr. Stanley Wilson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William

Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J. (St. Pancras W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, C. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon, John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthn
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) moved to omit the words "on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate." They found themselves in a difficult position as to what was to be the course of procedure. Objections had been raised and they had been met by the Amendment suggested by the Prime Minister. There was no word in the Resolution to show actually the moment when it was the intention of the Government that the Motion should be made. If it was intended that it should always follow consequentially on the Second Reading the Government would have put the word "forthwith" in the original Resolution. That therefore was evidently not the intention of the Government. They were now left in a state of uncertainty as to whether the Motion was to be made immediately after Second Reading or whether it could be deferred. The position was complicated by the fact that the provision made in paragraph 1 was different from that in paragraph 2. In the first paragraph, when a Bill had been read a second time it must go to a Standing Committee unless otherwise ordered. Under paragraph 2 the Member in charge of the Bill might make a Motion committing some of the provisions of a Bill to a Standing Committee and some to a Committee of the Whole House. With reference to the actual words which he moved to omit he maintained that they were a very strange departure from the course usually followed in connection with procedure. There were many instances of the same words being used in connection with the Standing Orders, but they were not used at present in connection with any stage of the proceedings upon which debate was actually necessary. They were, he was aware, introduced in connection with Motions extending the time in which matters could be debated. The same Motion might be used in connection with the closure when the time had come in the opinion of the Chair for the debate to end. They also had the same Motion in the case of a Minister deciding as to whether Supply should be taken on the second day of the week or not. But it was the first time such a Resolution had been proposed in regard to the Committee stage of a Bill. It had always been held that reference at any length in a debate on the Second Reading to the question whether a Bill should go to a Committee or not was out of order, because it was connected with another Motion entirely. That had been the rule hitherto, and it was desirable to know whether it was going to be the rule in the future. If the House did not debate a Bill fully on Second Reading, when was it to give an opinion? It seemed to him that in the mind of the Government the half was greater than the whole. He thought they were justified in asking for some further explanation, because this was a new form of procedure in connection with legislation which required some defence. It would be admitted by all that a Bill of a controversial character must inevitably be debated at considerable length so far as the details were concerned as well as principles. The House was aware that hon. Members would have no opportunity of discussing those principles in Committee. He would like to hear on what grounds the Government defended this new proposal which took away from the House any possibility of discussing the merits of a Bill in connection with its relegation to a Grand Committee.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University), in seconding, said he did not see why the point involved in the Amendment could not be conceded by the Government. In ninety-nine cases out of every 100 the discussion would occur outside the time limited to opposed business. It might be a safeguard that such a discussion should take place. Last session there were one or two Bills in regard to which it would be difficult to say whether they would have gone to a Committee of the Whole House or upstairs. He instanced the Plural Voting Bill in regard to which most of the work was done in Committee. Then there was the Workmen's Compensation Bill which was sent to a Standing Committee of which he was a member. In the case of that Bill the bulk of the work was done on the Report stage. The Government were defeated upstairs several times, and consequently several matters had to be set right on Report. He was glad that the Government had adhered to their decision to treat all Bills alike and to apply the rule to Bills passed *sub silentio* after eleven o'clock at night. But surely they ought to have a right to discuss such Motions as these after eleven o'clock, because a few words of explanation might be necessary to satisfy the House. In the case of a Bill which was allowed to go through by arrangement with both sides of the House upon the understanding that it should be sent to a Committee of the Whole House, a few words from both sides might at once put the matter right. He submitted that they were making a great departure from existing procedure in sending Bills automatically upstairs, and the least the Government could do would be to allow some sort of discussion to determine whether it was the desire of the House that a Bill should be sent upstairs or be referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

Amendment proposed—

"In lines 2 and 3, to leave out the words, "on Motion to be decided without amendment or debate."—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the object of the alteration now proposed was to facilitate business and get on with the work. He did not think the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite quite realised what was intended. The Government did not make any secret of their intention, which was that the great majority of Bills should go upstairs. Such Bills as the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and others to which the hon. and learned Member had referred, were precisely the class of Bills which ought to go upstairs, and the only Bills which the Government wished to reserve for the whole House would be the great Government measures of the session. It was not at all desirable that time should be spent unnecessarily after 11 o'clock. Anyone could make the Motion under the new rule and it would be settled without debate. If they did not make provision there would probably be a debate and a considerable amount of delay upon each occasion. The Government did not consider that that would be advisable, and therefore it was important that it should be generally understood that all Bills, except those of the kind to which he had referred, would go upstairs.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) pointed out that the course proposed might stand in the way of concessions from the Government to the Opposition as to Bills which it was desired to refer to a Committee of the whole House. If the Amendment of his hon. friend were accepted there would still be difficulties in the way of taking Bills downstairs. He thought that proper notice ought to appear upon the Paper of any Motion of the kind.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the Amendment he had suggested stated that such Motion would not require any notice and might be made by any hon. Member.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said he was still of opinion that such a Motion ought to appear in the ordinary way on the Paper.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL said he could not agree with the right hon. Member for the Hallam Division upon this occasion. On the contrary he thought it was expedient that the House should have an opportunity not only of voting but also of giving reasons for their vote. There were many Bills which were read a second time, but were quite fit for the Standing Committee, and others which were not fit for that tribunal to deal with, and hon. Members who came into the House quite new to the question under discussion would not be aware of the arguments which had been used for and against the Motion. He thought the business of the House would be facilitated and its progress accelerated if they had an opportunity of discussing this change. He viewed with apprehension crude legislation which must be mischievous and which was bound to occupy a great deal of time. He felt strongly that by this change in their procedure they were moving too fast, and, as a friend of freedom of debate, he would support the Amendment.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said it had been suggested that the adoption of the Amendment might stand in the way of the Government's acting in certain matters with the Opposition. They could see what the result of that would be. The Government having assented, at the request of the Opposition, to allow a Bill to remain in Committee of the Whole House, a discussion might take place on the question whether that course should be agreed to. The Government might say: "Although we are desirous of allowing the Bill to remain in Committee of the Whole House, yet, in view of the fact that we know for a certainty that discussion will arise, we cannot agree to your request." He hoped his hon. friend would persevere with his proposal. He did not think they should do evil that good might come. With the two exceptions of the Motion for the suspension of the eleven o'clock rule and the Motion for the application of the closure, he did not know any subject which had not been from time immemorial debateable. The two exceptions belonged to quite a different category. The closure was instituted in order that the Government might deal with obstruction. The suspension of the eleven o'clock rule was introduced with the same object. Now it was proposed to go further, and to put a weapon into the hands of the Government to stifle debate—a thing which had never been done before in the history of Parliament. The Prime Minister, speaking with great candour on the subject, had said that the object of the new rule was to facilitate business, and that it was not desirable that time should be spent in discussion. But did the House desire that business should be facilitated by the stifling of discussion? They might facilitate business by preventing discussion altogether, and by merely dividing upon a Bill when it was brought in by the Government. That was the only argument which the Prime Minister had advanced for refusing to accept the Amendment. The proposals were calculated to increase the power of the Government and to decrease the power of the House of Commons. He admitted that speeches seldom influenced votes, though he remembered an occasion, about twelve years ago, when the Chancellor of the Duchy made a speech by which his vote and the votes of a great number of Members on both sides of the House were turned. It was not the desire of the House of Commons absolutely to stifle discussion. He would say personally that the best way to facilitate business was not to bring in so many Bills. Both Parties were to blame in that matter. When the Conservatives were in office he often thought that they would have done better if they had not been quite so keen for legislation. That was a simple method of facilitating business without changing the procedure and forms of the House. Their forms were extremely good, but, like everything else, they were not perfect. He would be sorry to see them altered in the direction of stifling discussion. He was quite certain that Mr. Gladstone would not have approved of a Motion of this sort being made without discussion.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's) said the Prime Minister had stated that the only Bills to be reserved for discussion in Committee of the Whole House were the greater Government Bills. He supposed the right hon. Gentleman meant those measures to which a special paragraph was devoted in the King's Speech, and known as big-print Bills. The question whether a Bill was so little controversial that it should go upstairs rested entirely with the Government, and the House would have no opportunity of deciding whether, in their opinion, a Bill was controversial or not. The Government were also to have the power of deciding whether or not private Members' Bills should go upstairs. He suggested that the House ought to have some intimation from the mover beforehand as to what was intended to be done with a Bill if it passed Second Reading. He could see no objection to a Bill, after Second Reading, being referred to a Committee upstairs, but they should know before the Second Reading was passed that that was the procedure proposed to be taken. He supported the Amendment on the ground that the question whether a Bill should or should not be sent to a Committee upstairs was one which ought not to be decided until Members on both sides had had an opportunity of expressing their opinions.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) said it was all very well to say that the question whether a Bill should be referred to a Committee upstairs should be discussed by the House, but after the Second Reading the discussion on the question of referring it to a Committee was, generally speaking, merely for the purpose of blocking the measure. The debate on the Second Reading was exhaustive, so far as freedom of debate was concerned. The long wrangle which followed the Second Reading was sometimes for the purpose of preventing the Bill from making the further progress to which it was entitled. If a majority of the House voted for the Second Reading, it seemed to him that an opportunity should be given for the detailed discussion of the measure in Committee. Politicians outside, who considered the methods by which the business of the House was conducted, sometimes had their feelings roused, and they expressed the hope that some day the House would arrive at a better means of getting through the work they had to do. He regretted that the Party on his side of the House should meet all amendments of procedure in a spirit of uncompromising opposition. He thought the Opposition would better fulfil its function if it directed its attention to serious points. He was quite certain that the time would come when, in order to facilitate the business of the House of Commons, they would have to shorten speeches. He held that when a Bill had been amply and completely debated on the Second Reading it should then go automatically, without further debate, to the Committee which was to consider its details. On that ground, therefore, he supported the Government, and he doubted whether his hon. friend was wise in pressing his Amendment.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said that he could not agree with his hon. friend the Member for Glasgow. He was a young Member, but had been sufficiently long in the House to realise that there was a great deal of difference between the procedure of the Committee upstairs and the Committee of the Whole House. It seemed to him to be a very strong order to say that Bills should not be allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House. If the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, for instance, had passed Second Reading by only a small majority, on account of its controversial character the opportunity ought to have been given to hon. Members who did not approve of the Bill to discuss whether it should be sent to a Standing Committee upstairs, or referred to a Committee of the Whole House. After all, although a Member might not have a great interest in the whole of a particular Bill, he might wish to put down one or two Amendments on details which were of interest to his constituents, and he might not be able to do that because the Bill was out of his reach in the Committee upstairs. Therefore he hoped the Government would see their way to accept the Amendment, which he was assured would not lend itself to much abuse supposing it were possible to limit the time of the discussion and the number of Members who could speak.

MR. EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) thought that the noble Lord had misapprehended the Amendment before the House. The normal state of things would be that a Bill would go automatically upstairs after Second Reading; and the only effect of the Amendment was that it would be necessary to have a discussion upon Motion made as to whether the Bill should be retained in the full House or go upstairs. The Member for the City of London had said that if the Amendment were not carried discussion would be crushed; but he would remind the hon. Baronet that at present if a Bill had passed its Second Reading it automatically went to the Committee without discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought that it would be much better if they were allowed on every occasion to decide after debate under a ten minutes regulation whether the Bill was to be kept in the House or sent to a Committee upstairs. He quite agreed with the Prime Minister that they should not have a full-dress debate as to whether a Bill should be sent upstairs or kept for consideration in Committee of the Whole House. But that point was not raised by the Amendment, and he did not think that private Members should be discouraged from endeavouring to get their Bills into Committee upstairs. He suggested that his hon. friend should not press his Amendment to a division. He would have preferred an Amendment which would have given to the House a qualified power of debate.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN then moved the Amendment which he had read to the House earlier in the day.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, after the words 'otherwise order,' to insert the words 'and such a Motion shall not require notice, may be made by any Member, and may, though opposed, be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said that while he recognised the desire of the Prime Minister to meet the views of hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House, he regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not been able to adopt the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition as to something in the nature of a ten minutes rule for discussing whether a Bill should be sent upstairs or retained for consideration in Committee of the Whole House. There might be a Bill on which there was unanimity of opinion in regard to its general principles, but a wide difference of opinion in regard to some details. He himself had had charge of such Bills, and some of the clauses had been opposed on non-Party lines. The course of the debate on the Second Reading of a Bill of that kind would be quite different from a debate upon a Bill referred to a Grand Committee. If the Prime Minister would alter his Amendment so as to allow two short speeches, one for and the other against the Motion, it would remove a good deal of his opposition.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

MR. STUART WORTLEY was understood to ask whether under the wording of the Resolution the Motion could be made on a subsequent day. It was desirable that Motions in that House should be something more than formalities. He took it that these Motions would be made by the Government—that no private Members would make them, but that they would be brought forward by the Government on behalf of private Members' Bills.

SIR F. BANBURY agreed that the effect of the proposal would be that a Bill would remain to be considered by Committee of the Whole House unless the House otherwise ordered. By attempting to go against well-defined rules they found themselves in a dilemma. He thought before they passed these words, they ought to consider them a little more carefully than they had done up to the present. He saw very great difficulty in regard to the matter. Unfortunately there was no Report stage in reference to these Resolutions, but he asked the Prime Minister whether he could not make some small concession to the effect that the Motion should only be made some time before opposed business came to an end. If it was only to be made after opposed business there would not be a proper opportunity of opposing the Motion. The result of the present proposal would be that they might not get a proper decision of the House, and as he read it that Motion might be made at any hour.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN pointed out that the word "unless" necessarily made the matter a continuous transaction. Unless the House otherwise ordered it would be committed to committing the Bill to a Committee upstairs.

SIR F. BANBURY said that might be the intention of the Government, but there was nothing, as the Motion stood, to prevent an hon. Member on Wednesday from making a motion in regard to a Bill the Second Reading of which was passed on Tuesday.

MR. EVANS was certain that the intentions of the Government were quite clear, but it was also perfectly clear that on a subsequent day a Motion might be made by some private Member for referring a Bill to a Standing Committee. Some notice should, he thought, be given of such a proceeding. The Government said now that the transaction was to be a continuous one, and that the Motion would be moved immediately after the Second Reading, but the proposal before the House did not make that certain. He suggested that if there was a loophole it could be provided against by inserting words to the effect that such Motion must be made immediately after the Bill had been read a second time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that whilst he agreed with the hon. and learned Member that the words suggested would avoid a considerable amount of difficulty in the future, he thought before introducing them the House ought to consider whether it was necessary to give notice or not. His own view was that notice ought to be given. He thought that when Members came down on a Friday afternoon to vote for or against a Bill, they ought to know what the intention of the mover was with regard to it. It was extremely desirable, therefore, that a notice should be put on the Paper as to what that intention was. The House should also consider whether there ought not to be a notice on the Paper at the time of the Second Reading of Government Bills to show what was the view of the Government. It was an old practice in regard to Committees to put a notice on the Paper saying to what Committee a Bill, when read a second time, should go. It was never compulsory, it was true, but it was efficient, and there was a good deal to be said in favour of the practice, so that the House might know where it was. There was a more important point upon the general question in regard to which he would like an explanation if the Government would give it. The first paragraph of the new Standing Order as now proposed stated categorically that one of only two things could happen after a Bill had received its Second Reading. Either the Bill automatically went to a Committee, or by a decision of the House it was kept in Committee of the Whole House. Paragraph 1 contained the proposal of no other alternative, but paragraph 2 contemplated a third alternative, and he did not see the interstice in the procedure into which that alternative could find its way. How was a Member who desired to refer half his Bill to a Committee and to keep half in the House to make a Motion to that effect? Where was the interstice in the procedure for the facilities of paragraph 2 after the passing of paragraph 1? This was not a question of policy, but of drafting, and he thought it was a defect in drafting which the Government would do well to consider.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN thought it would be sufficient to insert the words "provided that" at the commencement of paragraph 2.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether it would not be necessary to insert words in paragraph 1.

MR. EVANS said it would be sufficient if paragraph 2 commenced with the words "provided that."

MR. RAWLINSON asked whether it would not be better to put some saving words in paragraph 1 such as "saving as hereinafter provided" after the word "debate" and before the words "otherwise ordered."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that if no Motion was made the House would commit the Bill upstairs. That procedure would, of course, be restricted by a proper method of reversing the decision afterwards. In ordinary cases it would be decided that the Bill should be referred to one of the Standing Committees. That would create the necessity for proceeding immediately if it was wished to prevent that being done. He did not see the necessity for the words suggested, but if the rule was not thought to be perfectly clear he was prepared to accept an Amendment to meet the point that the matter might be hung up and a Motion surreptitiously made to the great inconvenience of the House. He did not see that the power of the Government would be increased by the addition of the words suggested, and he thought it was better to leave the matter to the decision of the House. He would be disposed to accept the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend.

MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) did not see how, in the rule which the Prime Minister had submitted to the House, they were going to send a Bill to a Select Committee. Under the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman every Bill would stand referred to a Standing Committee, unless the House "otherwise ordered." It seemed to him that they might find some considerable difficulty where there were two Members, one anxious that the Bill should go to a Select Committee, and the other anxious to keep it in the House. Which was to have priority? He did not gather that more than one Motion could be made after the Bill had been read a second time. It seemed to him that it would be a matter of luck or arrangement which Member was able to make the Motion which would decide the subsequent fate of the Bill. That was a point which no doubt the Prime Minister had considered, and doubtless could enlighten them upon.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the sending of a Bill to a Select Committee had always been a separate transaction. It was not a very usual course, and was the subject of a separate Motion. It would be quite possible, he should think, after the House had allowed the Bill to go to one of the Standing Committees, for a Motion to be made, either on the same day or any other day, that such a Bill, instead of being committed to the Standing Committee in accordance with such decision, should be referred to a Select Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether that was possible according to their rules? The Bill, by hypothesis, had gone to Grand Committee or Committee of the Whole House as the case might be. At all events the whole thing had been settled after the Second Reading. How then was it to be withdrawn by a separate Motion? He did not think that when Committee of the Whole House was seised of a Bill it was possible to send it to a Select Committee. Was it proper to ask the counsel of Mr. Speaker on that point? Was it competent for a Member of the House, after a Bill had actually been sent to Grand Committee, or when it was actually in Committee of the Whole House in ordinary practice, then to send it to a Select Committee? He did not remember that ever having been done.

*MR. SPEAKER: It would be necessary to discharge the original Order, and the House could order the Bill to be sent to a Select Committee. Of course, the hon. Member who wished to do that would have to find his own time for making the Motion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that if the Member in charge of the Bill would not make a Motion, then automatically the Bill went upstairs. What Order was there to discharge in that case?

*MR. SPEAKER: I thought the right hon. Gentleman was asking what is the present practice. I cannot say what will be done; that is for the House to settle now. As to the present practice, if a Bill has been ordered to Grand Committee or committed to Committee of the Whole House, in that case it would be necessary for the hon. Member to move to discharge that particular Order, and to ask the House to send the Bill to a Select Committee. But, as I have said, the hon. Member who is in charge of the Bill would have to find his own time for doing that. He cannot simply put the Motion down and take it at the commencement of business, or at any other time; he must find his own time. What the practice will be after this Standing Order comes into force is another matter. That is what the House is considering, and it is for the House to settle it.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY said that if, as the Prime Minister had just said, a Member could move afterwards to have a Bill referred to a Select Committee, similarly the same must apply, if, when read a second time *ipso facto* a Bill went to a Standing Committee, and it was desired afterwards to have it on the floor of the

House. He thought some amending words should be inserted so as to afford Members an opportunity of moving that a Bill be sent to a Select Committee. That would be a less cumbrous proceeding than that of asking the House to discharge a previous order, especially when there would be no time to move the Motion, as appeared to be the case under the proposal now before them. As to the question of notice, he did not know that it was necessarily an objection to Members on that side of the House that it would strengthen the Government. Both sides of the House had turns of Government alternately, and the rules which benefited one side would in turn benefit the other. Still, he could not see himself that it would be any great benefit to the Government, but notice would be of considerable advantage to many private Members of the House, and would enable them to form a decision whether they would give a Bill a Second Reading or not. It might be that they would be perfectly ready to give it a Second Reading, if they knew that it was to remain in Committee of the Whole House, and that it was not probable it would go any further. But if they knew that it was to go to Grand Committee they might possibly refuse a Bill a Second Reading. Therefore, he thought notice was to the advantage of private Members. He suggested that there should be further consideration of the matter in order that it might be made clear.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said the matter seemed to him to be full of difficulty, but he believed the correct view to be that the reference of Bills to Standing Committees would really be in the same position as the reference of Bills, under the present procedure, to a Committee of the Whole House. Reference of Bills to Standing Committees would not require to be moved. If they wanted to do anything with them afterwards they would have to make a Motion to the effect "That the order for the said Committee be discharged," etc., and that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, or a hybrid Committee, or whatever they thought proper. He doubted whether the proposed Standing Order permitted of a Motion being made to refer a Bill to a Select Committee, because it merely said, "unless the House . . . otherwise order." He regretted that the Prime Minister should have introduced the idea that such a Motion might be made on a subsequent day. He could quite conceive that there might be negotiations, and that the Government did not want to shut the door on them; but they would not be able to discharge the original reference without practically a full-dress debate; although everybody might wish to have such a change made.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.) said he did not gather that the Prime Minister's answers really met the point raised by his hon. friend behind him. His point was that when a Bill had been read a second time, it was competent for any Member to move that the Bill, instead of being kept in Committee of the Whole House, should be referred to some other Committee. There was nothing in the rule providing that the Member in charge of a Bill should have a prior right to move to which Committee it should be sent. It was an absurd position that some other Member might move that a private Member's Bill should be referred to a Standing Committee upstairs. That question was to be decided without discussion, and the private Member who was in charge of the Bill would have no opportunity of making the Motion that it should be sent to a Select Committee. Surely that point ought to be met.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER pointed out that no Motion was required for referring a Bill to a Standing Committee.

EARL PERCY said he had made a mistake in that respect, but he would put it in this way. Supposing an hon. Member moved that it should not be sent to a Standing Committee but be kept in Committee of the Whole House?

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he would deal with the present practice first. Under the present practice, when a Bill had been read a second time it stood committed to a Committee of the Whole House for a day that was named by the hon. Member in charge, unless the House, on Motion made, resolved that the Bill be committed to some other kind of Committee. "Otherwise order" covered any kind of Committee. It was open to move the reference of a Bill to a Select Committee, which after all, was a very rare proceeding, and generally was the subject of agreement. If the hon. Member in charge of the Bill, or any other Member, desired the Bill to be sent to a Select Committee, or a Joint Committee, then the hon. Member made the Motion after the Second Reading. That Motion could be made without notice.

Earl PERCY said the mere fact that there was no debate precluded the Member in charge of the Bill from stating whether he wished it to be sent to a Select Committee.

***Sir HENRY FOWLER** said that after all they were dealing with an imaginary state of things, because Members of the House, long before a Second Reading debate concluded, knew whether a Bill was going to remain in the House. The five o'clock Bills on Friday afternoons generally went to Standing Committees; their promoters were eager to send them there. The real difficulty was with regard to Government Bills. It was the intention of the Government that all important controversial Bills should be discussed in the House, and not in Grand Committee. The Amendment before them was to decide whether there was to be a debate upon the question, but the Government had stated their view, and it was not necessary to repeat it. He thought it was the better course that there should be no Amendment and no debate, because the House would be fully aware of the nature of the Bill and quite competent to decide whether it should go upstairs or remain in the House. To give opportunity for debate would be to perpetuate the evil which they wanted to avoid, viz., the danger of delaying the progress of business by having practically another Second Reading debate.

***Sir FRANCIS POWELL** hoped the House would be careful not to do anything which would prejudice referring Bills to a Select Committee. He would remind hon. Members that so recently as last session the Provision of Meals Bill was referred to a Select Committee and after being amended, was now law, and, as he thought, a most salutary law.

Mr. EVANS formally moved to amend the Amendment by inserting the words "Such Motion must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'notice,' to insert the words 'must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Evans.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said the Prime Minister's Amendment practically accepted the insertion of the words suggested by the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan; but they had not had any answer to the question, in the event of the Bill under the new rules being sent to a Committee and there being a desire that it should not go to a Grand Committee but to a Select Committee, by what process they could undo the action the House had taken and relegate the Bill to a Select Committee.

Sir F. BANBURY was anxious to know what would happen in case two hon. Members desired to make a Motion, one that a particular measure should go to a Select Committee and the other that it should be retained for a Committee of the Whole House. How was it to be decided which Member would be called upon first? If the hon. Member who wished the Bill sent to a Select Committee carried his Motion, the second hon. Member who desired a Committee of the Whole House would, by a mere accident, be cut out altogether. If the Amendment of his hon. friend was inserted it would then be impossible for any hon. Member to move that the order be discharged and the Bill committed to another Committee, because they would be face to face with this new Standing Order, which declared that no Motion of that kind might be made except immediately after the Second Reading. The Prime Minister had not answered the point raised by the hon. Member for Sevenoaks. In his opinion the point was in fact unanswerable.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN did not think the hon. Baronet would be so bewildered under the new rule as he expected. When a Bill was read a second time it would go, unless otherwise directed, to a Standing Committee. His right hon. friend had read the rules of procedure and shown how they dealt with the case of an hon. Member who wished a Bill to go to a Select Committee. The hon. Baronet had asked what would happen when the particular partisan for a Committee of the Whole House and the partisan for a Select Committee rose together. All he needed to say was that if the person in charge moved that the Bill should be sent to a Select Committee instead of to a Standing Committee the House would decide the matter by a division, and if it decided against a Select Committee the Member in charge of the Bill would move his Motion and the House would vote upon it.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said he still very much objected to the proposal that the Motion must be made immediately after the discussion on the Second Reading. He considered that it was a fetter upon the liberty of hon. Members, and he did not see why the House should not be free to entertain upon a subsequent day a Motion of which it should receive full notice. They might find that the Standing Committees were blocked with business, and in such an event it might be in the interests of the progress of business that a particular measure should be kept downstairs.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said the Prime Minister had stated that it was quite easy for the second hon. Member to move that a Bill should go to a Committee of the Whole House. He wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman that they had already decided that the Motion must be made without Amendment or debate. Now it was stated that they could vote upon the two issues. He thought the difficulty which had been put forward by the hon. Baronet was a real one. They ought to remember that the provisions read out by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster were those given in the book which regulated their procedure, but they did not form part of the Standing Orders of the House. As they were told last year in connection with the change in the divisions, Standing Orders took precedence of mere usage, and when they had amongst their rules a Standing Order like that now proposed they would be ruled entirely by it. The additional words would preclude any interchange of opinion on the part of the House.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said if the proposed words were inserted at the place suggested they would only regulate Paragraph (1) of the new rule, leaving Paragraph (2) still an open question. Would it not save a great deal of time if the same provision were applied to both paragraphs? He suggested that the words should be put in after Paragraph (2) as a sub-paragraph. If his suggestion were accepted the Amendment could be withdrawn, and they would have a little more time to consider what form of words should be inserted.

MR. EVANS said the course suggested by the hon. Member was neither necessary nor convenient. Words could be introduced after Paragraph (2) to make quite clear the procedure to be followed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR suggested that Paragraph (2) might be slightly expanded by the insertion of the following words: "Provided always that the House may on Motion made by the Member in charge of the Bill commit the Bill either to a Select Committee, or a Standing Committee," and so forth. He thought that would get over the whole difficulty.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 284; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 95.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W. H.(St.Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth,Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset,N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St. Pancras, E.
Leese,Sir JosephF(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A. Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G. Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan,J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nicholson,Charles N(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)

Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards,T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton,Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley,John Henry(Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson,J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St.Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hon.Sir H
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach,Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone,E.)
Collings,Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingham'
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt. Hon.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hon.Col.W
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin, S .
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Parker,Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson,John FrederickPeel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham. Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Stanley Wilson.

Words, as amended, inserted.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY moved an Amendment providing that a Bill introduced by a private Member and obtaining a Second Reading after the expiration of opposed business should not be subsequently adopted by the Government and taken at any time set apart for Government business. He said that the Amendment was frankly designed to prevent the Government adopting any Bill brought forward by a private Member. Some hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House thought they had reason to complain of the Government having done that last session. His object was to make it clear that where a private Member's Bill had benefited by the Standing Order, and had obtained a Second Reading, that Bill was not to be taken up by the Government at any time set apart for Government business. That was only fair play, for there was considerable danger of private Members in that way giving Governments more power than they already possessed. There might be no objection to allowing a private Member's Bill to be read a second time, but the Government ought not to be allowed to swoop down and take up a Bill, which might be of Party advantage, as their own. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment in the spirit in which it was moved.

MR. STANLEY WILSON seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words 'but no Bill introduced by a private Member and obtaining a Second Reading after the expiration of the time of opposed business shall be taken at any time set apart for Government business.'"—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR HENRY FOWLER said that he could not accept the Amendment. The Government would, by it, be deprived of all power of starring Bills or of giving facilities to pass Bills which practically the whole House desired to pass. The Musical Copyright Bill, for instance, could not have been got through under this Amendment.

SIR F. BANBURY reminded the right hon. Gentleman that the Second Reading of the Musical Copyright Bill had been obtained in the ordinary way and the measure sent to Committee upstairs. The Amendment of his right hon. and gallant friend would not affect any Bill which had been properly discussed. He maintained that if a private Member's Bill had not been fully discussed on Second Reading it should not be sent to a Committee upstairs and afterwards starred by the Government. That gave the Government a double advantage, and it must be remembered that the rules of procedure were all designed to give facilities to the Government of the day. He begged to support the Amendment.

MR. EVANS said that the Amendment of the right hon. and gallant Member was entirely outside the province of the rules of procedure. Nobody desired to curtail the right of private Members to say to what Committees the Bills which they introduced and for which they had obtained a Second Reading should go.

MR. WALTER LONG said that although the object of the Amendment might be to some extent outside the rules of procedure, it must also be admitted that a considerable change had been made by the Amendment of the Prime Minister which proposed to extend facilities for the passage of Bills after the Second Reading had been taken. Of course, there were great difficulties in the way of the proposal of his right hon. and gallant friend; but there might be another way of meeting them. What his right hon. and gallant friend wanted to deal with was not the case of a non-contentious Bill which got a Second Reading with the general consent of the House, and he would alter his Amendment to meet such a case. It was felt on both sides of the House, and certainly by hon. Gentleman who sat beside and behind him, that there were two different courses of procedure—a Government procedure and a private Members' procedure. They had always felt that if they were going to facilitate the passage of a private Member's Bill there ought to be some intimation that the Government intended to adopt it. It was quite obvious that a Bill like the Land Tenure Bill could not have been passed into law unless the Government had taken it up. In his opinion the Government ought not to take up private Members' Bills at a late period of the session, and he thought it would be fairer to minorities if some protection were given to them, as would be done if the Amendment were adopted.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said it was quite impossible for a Government to say in the earlier stages of a Bill whether they would adopt it or not. A Bill might be turned inside out during the Committee stage, and until that process had been gone through, no Government could determine whether the Bill should in their judgment be passed into law or not; nor did he see why the mere fact of a Bill going through its Second Reading without discussion or objection should be regarded as a bar sinister to its continuance; rather it seemed to him to be a recommendation. Of course a Bill might slip through accidentally when no one was looking, but that would be known long before the question could arise of its being taken up by the Government.

MR. A. J. **BALFOUR** hoped the right hon. Gentleman would forgive him for saying that the Amendment proposed by his right hon. friend would not have been brought forward if it had not been for the unfortunate deviation of the Government from the general practice last session. That aroused the jealousy which had prompted the Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman truly said that it was difficult to demarcate the conditions and to lay down a general line in regard to the stage at which it was possible for the Government to decide whether or not they should take up a Bill. It would be unfortunate if a Government were precluded from taking up Bills towards the end of the session, and if the Government had adhered to the ordinary and natural practice which had prevailed in the House the Amendment would not have been moved. He agreed that it was impossible to tell on Second Reading whether a Bill ought or ought not to be adopted by the Government, because in Committee it might assume another form. That argument had force, but so had the opposing argument, in regard to the practice which had grown up. Mr. Speaker's predecessors in the Chair had made it a common, though not an invariable practice, to give the closure at five o'clock on a Friday afternoon to a private Bill which they would never have given after a brief discussion to a Bill introduced by the Government. He was quite certain that neither Mr. Speaker Peel, nor Mr. Speaker Gully would ever have given the closure in the case of many private Bills, had it been the habit of the Government at a later stage to take up those Bills; they would have been guided in giving or withholding the closure by the character of the Bills and the policy which the Government were likely to adopt with regard to them. Unless the Government announced on the Second Reading what their policy would be with regard to a measure, it was quite impossible for the occupant of the Chair to know what course he ought to take. Was he to treat it as embodying a Resolution of the House in a concrete form, or was he to treat it as the first great stage of a controversial measure? His right hon. friend took the view that the Government should be precluded from taking up any private Bill, and that was expressed in his Amendment. [Cries of "No."] What he wanted was to have some method by which they would be able to draw a line between those Bills which were to be taken up and those which were not to be taken up. There were hon. Gentlemen who would cut down the limits of debate in Committee. But if they were going to curtail debate on Second Reading as well, by means of the closure, the control which the House had over legislation would be reduced to impossible narrowness. The Government could hardly complain of an attempt to deal with an evil which last session reached formidable proportions.

LORD R. **CECIL** thought the form of the Amendment would not secure the end they desired. He held quite as strongly as his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition that for the Government to adopt private Members' Bills which had been passed at an afternoon sitting late in the session was a great abuse of Parliamentary procedure, especially in the way in which it was done last session. But this Amendment would not make a repetition of last session's proceedings impossible. It would, however, prevent the passing of useful measures such as the Musical Copyright Bill and the Solicitors Bill which were starred by the Government. He hoped the Amendment therefore would not be pressed.

COLONEL **KENYON-SLANEY** said that if the Amendment had been received in the sympathetic spirit in which he had hoped it would be, and if there had been any encouragement of the view which he sought to bring forward, he would not have divided the House. But having regard to the reception which had been accorded to his proposal he would divide the House as a protest against the action of the Government last session.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 277. (Division List No. 96.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHnSir Alex.F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balfour,Rt Hn.A.J.(CityLond)
Banbury,Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach,Hn.Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Collings,Rt. Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon,Sir W.Evans-(T'rHam.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt. Hon. SirJohnH.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long,Rt. HnWalter(Dublin, S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson,John FrederickPeel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson,A Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Colonel Kenyon-Slaney and Captain Harvey.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barry,Redmond J.(Tyrone, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Benn,W (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton,Rt.Hn RichardKnight
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies,W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget

Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W Bateman(Somerset, N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A Levy(Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Charles N(Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore, C. (Radcliffe)
Talyor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn(Carm'th'n)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. RAWLINSON moved an Amendment to include among the Bills to which the Standing Order should not apply Bills imposing rates or charges on rates, as well as Bills for imposing taxes. He thought the Government would have no difficulty in accepting the Amendment, as it followed the principle they had already adopted. If he remembered rightly, Mr. Speaker last year with regard to some Amendments that came down from the House of Lords ruled that the power which admittedly existed in this House with regard to taxation also existed with regard to any Bill which contained a clause imposing rates. If he was right, rates also came within the exception made by the Government. The whole basis of the exception introduced in the Government proposal was the principle that anything that imposed taxation should not be dealt with by a Committee upstairs but should have the benefit of a discussion in Committee of the whole House. He submitted that the principle was the same with regard to any clause in a Bill that imposed rates. He begged to move.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY seconded the Amendment. Although the Government might reply that it was not the function of the House to impose rates, yet the House did impose them indirectly either by giving increased power to municipalities to increase a rate for the purposes of the municipality, or by imposing on the municipalities all over the country a burden, as would have been the case had the Education Bill of last year passed, which necessitated further rates being raised. He therefore submitted that such Bills should not be dealt with by Committees upstairs.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 5, after the word 'taxes,' to insert the words 'or rates or charges on rates.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR HENRY FOWLER said the hon. Gentleman did not say exactly what rates he referred to, but left it to his hon. friend to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" of the proposal. The House did not impose rates at all except by sanctioning private Bills, which went upstairs and were discussed and decided by a Committee, not of seventy or eighty members, but of four. It would be a novel thing to compare taxes imposed by the House and rates imposed by local authorities for local purposes.

MR. RAWLINSON said he referred to such rates as those which would have been imposed by the Education Bill—rates imposed for a particular purpose.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said the Amendment of the hon. Member raised the question of privilege in respect to the rights of the House in matters of taxation. Those rights were waived in regard to rates, but not with regard to taxes. The point was mixed up with the whole question of local and Imperial taxation, with which he hoped this House would have to deal. But every power for levying local rates for local purposes would be governed by the Amendment and he could not accept it.

MR. WALTER LONG said he found it difficult to understand the Answer just given. The right hon. Gentleman had said that every power of local rating would be governed by this Amendment. He knew perfectly well that that was not so. There was all the difference in the world between a rate imposed by a locality within its own area for its own needs and a rate imposed by all localities in the country, at the instance of the Government, for a particular purpose. Admittedly rates were not constitutionally in the same category as taxes, but practically they were. It made very little difference to those who had to pay them. The Irish Local Government Board, and the English and Scottish Local Government Boards dealt with local taxation, and there was not an Act which dealt with sanitary arrangements, education, local government and other matters, during the last forty years, which had not laid an additional burden on local resources. And what his hon. friend suggested was that if Parliament sought to impose upon the whole of the ratepayers of the country a charge which they were compelled to pay, at all events that decision ought to be arrived at on the floor of the House of Commons and not in Grand Committee. When the right hon. Gentleman said that Parliament did not impose these rates, because it gave the local authorities power to impose them, he was bound to say that while the argument was sound enough from the point of view of sound constitutional doctrine, a more absurd and unpractical argument he could not conceive. They gave to local authorities power to impose certain rates within their areas, and if that was not imposing rates, he did not know what was. When people resisted a rate, it was because they preferred to go to prison rather than pay it; but did not that point to the fact that the charge was a compulsory one; if it was not, he did not know the meaning of a compulsory charge. He thought the Amendment was well founded.

LORD R. CECIL said the right hon. Gentleman had given two answers to the Amendment. The first was merely technical, that the House did not impose rates. Technically that might be accurate, and, therefore, he would suggest to his hon. friend that he should make his Amendment read, "or raising rates or charges on rates. Beyond that he had not caught any answer from the right hon. Gentleman, except that there was a constitutional distinction between taxes and rates. He could not think that a sufficient answer to the Amendment. Let him point out to the House the position in which they really were. The Government clearly thought that some Bills ought to be considered in the House and not upstairs, and therefore they had inserted the exception, leaving out of the effect of the Standing Order Bills for imposing taxes and the like. If that was right, it must mean that anything which would increase the burden on the people ought to be a matter for the consideration of the House alone. That was an intelligible principle, but it was a principle which applied equally to rates and to taxes. There seemed to be an impression on the other side that rates and taxes were very different things. Any proposal which would have the effect of increasing the rates *prima facie* attracted the support of the benches opposite. He could never understand why, in the least. On the other hand, any proposal which was thought, even lightly, to burden the taxpayers was rejected by the stringent economists opposite. He could not understand the reason at all why in our legislation this distinction had been made between rates and taxes, which, as a matter of economics, were precisely the same thing. Every one of the evils which followed from an undue excess of taxation followed equally from an undue increase of rates. They had heard the other day from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that one of the causes of the lowness of money—if lowness was the proper word to use—was the expenditure on the late war which had been charged upon the taxes by the late Government. Whether that was right or wrong he did not know, but if it were right, it was equally true that the expenditure of municipalities for the last ten years was a contributory cause of the great burdens which had been put on the financial resources of the country. Therefore, if it was right, and he certainly thought it was right, that Bills imposing taxes should be excluded from this rule, it was equally right, indeed in some ways more essential, that Bills imposing charges on rates should also be excluded.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said the Amendment had the double fault of being wrong in form and wrong in substance. He rather gathered from the noble Lord that he himself thought it could not be sustained in the form in which it was moved. It confused what, from a Parliamentary point of view, were two distinct classes of measures, namely, financial measures which originated in Committee of Ways and Means, and imposed charges by the Imperial authority, and measures which dealt with local assessments and the imposing of local burdens which were due to the action of local bodies. But the Amendment was also wrong in substance. The very Bills which were most complicated, which involved the exercise of the greatest amount of technical knowledge, would be excluded from Grand Committees. The Public Health Act of 1875, for instance, which bristled with technicalities, could not possibly have been dealt with in the House within the limits of a session.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was.

SIR JOHN WALTON said he would not say it was impossible, because all things were possible; but under certain conditions, and with obstacles in the way, it would be impossible to discuss such a measure in the House. Bills providing for housing, giving local authorities fresh powers for dealing with sewers, —all entailing large outlay of money and the raising of rates — were the very Bills the tedious details of which ought to be thoroughly thrashed out by a Committee upstairs, but the proposed Amendment would exclude them from the rule.

MR. STUART WORTLEY was understood to contend that the Bills in question involved a diminution of public resources, whether in the form of Imperial taxes or public loans, and hence the Government Departments concerned had to consult the Treasury, whose consent was necessary. The same reason applied to Bills imposing local charges, which meant a diminution of public resources, and the House ought to be very jealous of parting with the control of any measure involving a question of the diminution of the public resources.

MR. EVANS said it was assumed that the result of the rule would be that all Bills of this kind must go upstairs. But such measures as the Education Bill of last year and that of 1902 were highly controversial, and, according to the principle laid down by the Prime Minister, would not be sent to a Committee upstairs. Under the Amendment, if carried, it would be absolutely necessary to send every rating Bill, however small, into Committee of the Whole House. An Amendment had already been proposed to the effect that all Bills dealing with finance should be excluded. It was quite true that all the money both for taxation and for local purposes came out of the ratepayers' pocket, and it was equally true that a great many people were very much interested in the diminution of the rates. He remembered on one occasion going to the Ladies' Gallery, and a lady asked him what they were talking about in the House. He told her, and she replied, "That is not interesting; why do not they talk about the rates?" If the Amendment were carried it would be absolutely necessary that any Bill touching the rating question in any form should be discussed in Committee of the Whole House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. and learned Gentleman would now see that he had raised one of the most difficult points they had to deal with. He had told them that the Government did not mean to send controversial measures to Grand Committee, but they had not got that embodied in the Standing Order. He had no doubt the Prime Minister would carry out his declared intention, but a subsequent Government might say that circumstances had altered, and they intended to apply the rule as far as the actual words of the section permitted. It was for that reason that his friends were naturally desirous of seeing the explicit exceptions made as numerous and clear as they could be. This Amendment, however, would want some modification. Rating Bills fell into two classes, Bills which permitted localities to impose rates for their own particular advantage, and Bills which imposed a duty on a locality, such as the duty of educating its children, and gave the right of raising rates to carry out that duty. Would anybody deny that the second class of Bills was not analogous to taxing Bills? Was there not also strong reason for exempting from the Standing Order anything which the House of Lords was precluded from dealing with in detail? Were they not bound to see that Bills which could not be revised elsewhere should come before the House in the most effective fashion? A Bill might impose rating whilst the rest of the measure might deal with matters of detail which could very properly be discussed in Grand Committee. Surely it was only right that they should be able to deal with that part of a measure which imposed rating, and which could not be amended in another place, by providing, under the second paragraph, that the rating clauses of the Bill should remain to be dealt with by Committee of the Whole House. Whilst agreeing that his hon. friend's Amendment needed some modification, he regretted that the Government had shown no desire to help them, and had in fact met them with a blank *non possumus*.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the discussion had taken two separate lines. In the first place there was the general question of the nature of the Bills which ought to be referred to the Committee upstairs; and, secondly, there was the particular question whether the subjects pointed to in this Amendment were to be made an exception to the general rule. On the larger question he had explained so often what the position and intention of the Government was that it seemed almost absurd to keep on repeating it. Hon. Members could not get it out of their heads that the Grand Committee was to be brought into play only in the case of absolutely innocent and what were called uncontroversial Bills. If they were only to send to Standing Committees uncontroversial Bills, it would not be worth while their introducing these Resolutions, because every Bill was or might become controversial. What they had said was that the great controversial Party measures of the session promoted by the Government should be exempted. This was the first of a series of Amendments which had been put down to except Bills of one kind or another. There were seldom cases in which two Members had suggested the same Amendment. There seemed to be a sort of co-operation to spread the advantages of treatment in the House of Commons over as large an area as possible. They were to exempt everything that had to do with rating, with Parliamentary reform or the franchise, with the powers of the Crown or either House of Parliament, the Army or Reserve Forces, or the Navy; they were to exempt Bills which aroused strong political controversy or excited acute religious susceptibilities, Bills which dealt with the Constitution of any of the Colonies, and with the redistribution of seats at Parliamentary elections. There was no reason why they should stop there. Why should an hon. Member not get up and move that no Bill should be referred to a Committee upstairs that had to do with a deceased wife's sister, or with the preservation of game, and in that way so exhaust the whole area of legislation that nothing would be left to go to the Committee upstairs? The Government could not accept any of these things which vitiated the whole conception that underlay their proposed scheme of procedure. As to the present Amendment, every one would understand the difference between an Imperial tax imposed by an Imperial law and the effect of powers given to local authorities to discharge certain public functions which would involve the imposition of a rate. There was hardly a Bill introduced dealing with a domestic subject in which the well-trained nose could not without much difficulty sniff a rate. The Amendment was no doubt very ingenious and plausible, but it would so narrow the field of legislation that could be dealt with by a Standing Committee that it would make the rules practically inoperative.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: May I ask a non-controversial Question? Could the Government favourably consider some method by which on the Report Stage this House could deal with rating questions? At present it is out of order for the House to deal with rating questions on Report.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Bill could be recommitted for that purpose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Partially upstairs, and partially here.

MR. WILLAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said that no words had been proposed by the Government to show what Bills should or should not go to the Grand Committees. On the contrary, the Prime Minister had just told the House that the Government would not accept any of the Amendments on the Paper.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Any of those Amendments which except from the operation of the Standing Order certain kinds of Bills.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he quite understood. He suggested that Bills which involved taxation, whether by taxes imposed directly by Parliament or by local rates, should be dealt with by Committee of the Whole House. It was just exactly that class of legislation which gave to local authorities the power to lay fresh imposts on the people which a large number of people in the country thought should be restricted. The rates had grown to such a point in some districts that practically speaking they were at the breaking point. For hundreds of years it had been the exclusive privilege of the House of Commons in Committee to deal in detail with questions which involved imposts on the people. It was now proposed for the first time by this Standing Order to take away [from the House as a whole a right which was one of the privileges of the Constitution, namely, that every Act of Parliament which involved a charge on the people should be debated in detail by the people's representatives. They ought to pay more attention to the historical and immemorial rights of the House sitting in Committee. He would support the Amendment.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 253; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 97.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,Sir J. Williams (Dev'np't
Benn,W (T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J. (S.Pancras,W
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dickinson,W.H. (St.Pancras,N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accr'gton)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson,Charles N. (Donc'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)

O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliff)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks., East)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S.Ed'ds)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 59; Noes, 258. (Division List No. 98.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, G'v'n)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S.Ed'ds
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.

Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Helmsley and Mr. Rawlinson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.)
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (D'v'np'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Esslemont, George Birnie
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Pirie, Duncan V.
Price,C.E. (Edinburgh,Central)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F. (Wolverh'mpton
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lynn
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton,Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Main Question again proposed.

And, it being after a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, Further Proceeding was postponed without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 4.

INCIDENCE OF TAXATION.

Mr. BENNETT (Oxfordshire, Woodstock) rose to call attention to the incidence of taxation in connection with the question of social reform, and to move, "That, in the opinion of this House, having regard to the wealth of the United Kingdom and the nature of its distribution, it is necessary to readjust the burden of taxation in order to make provision for social reforms which are urgently needed." He said the terms of the Resolution covered so considerable an area that, so far as he was concerned, he would confine his attention that evening to the incidence of Imperial taxation, without making any attempt to deal with the vexed questions of local rates and taxes—a subject which must of necessity be revised throughout its length and breadth by the present Government before it went out of office. The Liberal Party had been returned to power in order to save the country from the menace of protection and to carry out a genuine programme of social reforms. Some of those reforms would not involve the outlay of public money. Some methods of dealing with the temperance problem, for example, or, again, laws which endeavoured to cope with the admitted evils of the sweated industries—legislation of that type would make practically no demand on the pockets of the British taxpayer. On the other hand, it was easy to draw up a list of social reforms which must inevitably come and just as inevitably bring with them fresh demands upon the public purse. He would naturally that evening have accorded a foremost place in his remarks to the almost universal demand in this country for the establishment of some system of old-age pensions, but he was precluded from touching on that topic because of the existence of several Bills which blocked the way. That method of blocking discussion by private Bills which could never under any conceivable circumstances become law was rapidly developing into a fine art, and he ventured to think a very undesirable one. Another social reform, however, which would necessitate additional expenditure from the National Exchequer was the provision of some complete system of secondary and technical education. That reform, he was convinced, must come sooner or later, unless indeed we were prepared as a nation to lag behind in the international race for efficiency. One of the most painful experiences of any modern English traveller was the discovery that in the other countries of the civilised world the aged poor were better treated than they were in wealthy England, and that the children of the poorer classes enjoyed in other countries far greater equality of opportunity, far more facilities for securing the higher types of education than they did in Great Britain. He felt very strongly on that point, for he had spent a good many years of his life as fellow and tutor of an Oxford college, and no thoughtful resident in one of the older Universities could fail to realise the immense difficulties which stood in the way of any able young man who wished to secure the benefits of a University education. Occasionally a boy struggled up from the board school, but how rarely, and in almost every case the educational ladder was placed against the walls of the University, not by the State, but by the private generosity of some wealthy benefactor who had noticed the boy's abilities and paid for his University career. The social reformer then started with the postulate that much more money was required, and that that could only be furnished by a thorough re-adjustment of taxation. The researches of Sir Robert Giffen, Mr. Charles Booth, Mr. Rowntree, and others had proved conclusively that one-half of the national income was enjoyed by one-ninth of the population--that at one end of the social scale were 8,000,000 of workers earning less than £1 a week, and at the other end a tiny fraction, about one-thirtieth of the whole number—some of them workers, others drones, *nati consumere fruges*, possessing in wealth, or at any rate comfort, one-third of the entire wealth of the country. With these facts before them they found that the actual incidence of taxation, direct and indirect, was almost incredibly unfair. An average working class income from £50 to £80 per annum was taxed at the rate of 7 per cent.; an income of £200 at only 4½ per cent.; of £500 at 7 per cent., while larger incomes of £5,000 and over incurred a very slight increase in taxation over the working man's, for they were taxed at only 8½ per cent. No Liberal Government worthy of the name could, he thought, allow that manifest unfairness to continue. The weaker shoulders must be relieved as far as possible of the heavy imposts at present laid upon them, and the stronger shoulders must prepare themselves for the imposition of some additional burdens. He would leave the discussion of land values, a graduated income-tax, and a revision of the death duties to subsequent speakers, merely remarking in passing that it was now sixty years since John Stuart Mill urged the Government of his day to secure the immediate valuation of site values in Great Britain, in order that all subsequent increments in those values might be available for purposes of taxation. By the failure of successive Governments, Liberal and Conservative, to carry out such a valuation immense revenues had been lost for ever to the State, for no scheme of taxing land values could be retrospective. As to a graduated income-tax, the average elector might well say that if Pusssia, Sweden, Austria, and Denmark had been able to establish a complete graduation of that tax such a scheme ought not to be beyond the resources of British statesmanship. With respect to the death duties, it was interesting to remember the fierce cries of "confiscation" which were raised against their introduction in 1894. But he did not think that there was a single Member of the House who would now get up on a public platform and denounce the death duties as "confiscation." In fact what was called "confiscation" in one decade became in the next decade a recognised basis for the imposition of fresh taxation of a similar type. And, all said and done, the entire duty levied on the colossal sum bequeathed from the dead to the living in this country did not amount to more than about 6 per cent. of the whole. There existed also another source of national income, practically untapped at present, in connection with the gigantic monopoly of the liquor trade, valued at £250,000,000 sterling. He had recently received a number of letters from innkeepers — which from the amazing similarity in their diction must, he thought, be redactions of some common document furnished by the brewers—and in those letters the liquor trade was described as a harassed industry. He was quite ready to admit that the innkeeper was himself in many cases a harassed individual. The fierce competition of the trade, the tyranny of the tied-house system, and the overbearing treatment often meted out to the publican by the brewery firms — these things frequently rendered it a difficult task for the innkeeper to make a decent living. But to talk of the great brewing and distilling firms, who were allowed by the State to enjoy that monopoly, as "harassed" was surely a misuse of language. He would take, for instance, the licensing fees. While the small village inn was called upon to pay a comparatively heavy licensing fee in relation to its rateable value, the biggest gin palace in London was not required to contribute more than £60. The licensing fee of vast hotels like the Carlton, the Ritz, and the Metropole was actually .a miserable sum of £20 per annum. A wealthy distilling firm like Messrs. Dewar were mulcted in the sum of ten guineas for their licence, and the great firm of Messrs. Bass paid the amazing sum of twenty shillings per annum for their licence to brew. Surely such licence taxation was taxation *pour rire.* He did not think that any man who was not to some extent blinded by prejudice or self-interest would maintain that such taxes were adequate. If that position was maintained, then all he could say was that other countries had been wiser in their generation. The licensing fees of New York State alone amounted to more than double the entire fees exacted from the whole of Great Britain. In Norway and Sweden—the most sober countries in Europe—the profits of a wisely regulated liquor trade did not find their way wholly into the pockets of the brewers, but went largely into the coffers of the State, and were expended on reasonable and beneficent objects—amongst others, the formation of a fund for old-age pensions. He was aware that some of his extreme temperance friends held up their hands in horror at the idea of such "complicity" with what they described as an "accursed traffic." But after all, he would rather drink himself into an old-age pension than drink a brewer into a peerage. He had not alluded to possible demands which might from time to time be made upon the Exchequer in order to relieve distress caused by unemployment. But he ventured to think that a readjustment of taxation would provide a powerful stimulus to the home trade, and so to employment. Tariff reformers who regarded the taxation of imports as the panacea for all social evils constantly urged their hearers to fix their eyes on the export trade of the country—that they held to be the chief and best criterion of a nation's commercial prosperity. But had those gentlemen realised the economic fact that of all the workers in this country probably not more than 15 per cent. were engaged in producing commodities for the foreign market? The remaining 85 per cent. were occupied with the infinitely more important industries of the home market. Sir Robert Griffin had, he believed, said on one occasion that the loss of our entire foreign trade would indeed be a calamity but a *measurable* calamity. The readjustment of taxation ,involving as it would a remission of taxation to the poorer classes of the community, would add enormously to the spending power of the poor and enable them to purchase useful and necessary commodities. For example, the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton had recently uttered a feeling appeal in that House on behalf of the unemployed bootmakers at Leicester, some thousand in number. Now if the working families of England could, by a lessening of their taxation, purchase two or three extra pairs of boots per annum, there would, he thought, be less unemployment in the boot factories at Leicester. In conclusion he ventured to suggest that in this question of the readjustment of taxation lay one of the greatest opportunities ever presented to Liberalism. They had for the moment failed to carry out their educational policy and to abolish the plural voter—thanks to obstruction in another place. What might be the nature and outcome of their struggle with the powers of political darkness in that other place he did not know. But this he knew—that the people of England would say that in the matter of financial reform, at any rate, the Liberal Party had a free hand and that results were expected in accordance with that freedom. He was convinced that the talk of "not enough money" would not be accepted as an excuse for ever. Not enough money for old-age pensions — not enough money for a sound and democratic measure like the payment of Members—a reform which would need only one-ninth of the cost of a single "Dreadnought." The hollowness of the cry had been demonstrated by the economic facts of the South African war; for even the terrific drain upon our national resources caused by that war—at least £300,000,000—had apparently produced no permanent effect upon the finances of our wealthy country. He was conscious, of course, of having treated the subject of the discussion very inadequately. He laid no claim to any expert knowledge of finance but had merely tried to voice the general sort of attitude felt towards the question of taxation by the average British elector of the more thoughtful type. He had, at any rate, started a good many fiscal hares that evening and he now left the pursuit of them to hon. Members in various parts of the House who possessed far more detailed knowledge of financial questions than any he could claim for himself. He begged to move.

*MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) said the House was grateful to his hon. friend for moving this Motion, and for the unanswerable and convincing way in which he had placed the question before the House. He was sure also that the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be grateful for the opportunity to shadow forth the nature of the Budget proposals which they were all so eagerly anticipating. When he surveyed the Budgets of the last quarter of a century he was struck by the fact of how much they had been concerned with a little more on tea, a little less on sugar or a slight increase of the income-tax. With the exception of the measure of Lord Goschen dealing with the consolidation of debt and that of Sir William Harcourt which readjusted the Death Duties, all the Budgets of the last twenty years had been concerned with some trifling readjustments of a recognised gamut of duties. Such Budgets were of far more value to Mincing Lane than they were to the nation at large. It was high time that something more than mere rule-o'-thumb reigned at the Treasury in this matter. In time of peace we tinkered these taxes a little this way or a little that way, and in time of war we borrowed as much as the market would stand and divided the rest between direct and indirect taxation. When that had been the rule with Chancellors of the Exchequer for the last twenty years one did not wonder that a paper like the *Spectator* recently expressed surprise that no Chancellor with all the means at his command for such a purpose had as yet found it worth while to institute an inquiry into the national income. We had no properly equipped Census Bureau to act as the eye and ear of a Government determined to base its taxation not on surmise but on fact. No one need be surpised therefore that a member of the present Government a few years ago should have risen in his place and said it was impossible to find out the number of income-tax payers in the country. They were, however, able to arrive at the fact that the income-tax payers now were about 1,000,000 in number and that they took about half the national income. They were also able to ascertain that one-thirtieth of the whole population took one-third of the national income. Those were facts, now that they were ascertained with approximate exactitude, that must guide Chancellors of the Exchequer in the future, and especially Liberal Chancellors of the Exchequer, in framing their Budgets. They were also able to find out through the Death Duties with sufficient precision the distribution of property in which was involved the distribution of income. One-ninth of the people owned practically all the property in the country, and one-seventieth of the population owned half the entire land, capital, and accumulated wealth of the United Kingdom. He disclaimed, however, the view that it was the office of taxation to redress inequalities of wealth by means of taxation. Social reform did not mean robbing the rich in order to increase the incomes of the poor. The national income, if evenly distributed, would only furnish the people with a very small and inadequate income, Social reform worthy the name must look to the raising of the masses of the people by the production of a much larger material output. He desired to emphasise the point that whether our national expenditure was large or small, whether it was £50,000,000 or £500,000,000, the amount of revenue required ought to be raised with due regard to the distribution of the national wealth. Even if it were possible largely to reduce our present expenditure it would still be necessary to adjust out taxation in such a manner as to have proper regard to the distribution of the wealth of the United Kingdom. Taxation, in the first place, should have regard to the distribution of wealth, and, in the second place, it should not be imposed in such a manner or to such an extent as to restrict the employment of new capital by private individuals. If anyone imbued with Collectivist ideas assumes that with a State organised as our State was we could levy taxation to a very high degree, or that it could be imposed in a reckless manner, they made a very great mistake, because such a course would reduce the existing prosperity of the country by reducing private capital without, under present conditions, increasing public capital. He laid down the maxim that whatever taxation might be it should not exceed the amount which, while it might decrease expenditure on luxuries, would not decrease expenditure in the direction of new capital applied to industry. Taxation at present was roughly divided into direct and indirect taxation. We had a certain amount of direct taxation in the form of income-tax and stamp duties and so forth. That was balanced by the levying of indirect taxes, as he should show, very unjustly. Those taxes took the form of raising a revenue income from such articles as tea, sugar, liquors, and tobacco, and partly in the form of licence duties. Owing to want of knowledge of the income of the country, it had been very difficult for Chancellors of the Exchequer to decide how the incidence of these taxes bore on the various sections of the community. All these taxes, whatever their name might be, were in essence income-tax. The sugar tax and the tea tax were income-taxes. He did not care in what form they levied the taxes to which he referred, they were income-taxes, but their precise incidence, from their very nature, was in a very large degree uncertain, but in so far as they were able to ascertain the incidence, they found that it was exceedingly unjust. He had taken the trouble to boil down each of the different taxes into an income-tax. He had even taken the Post Office profits and treated them as a tax, although he thought they might be justly held not to be a tax at all. He found as a result that total taxation, reduced to the form of an income-tax, was even more unfair in its incidence than had been shown by his hon. friend the mover of the Resolution. First as to that part of the population whose income lay between £3 a week and £700 a year. There were the middle-class income-taxpayers who were granted abatements under the present income-tax system. They numbered 4,000,000, with wives and children. In that class there were 800,000 income-taxpayers—roughly 4,000,000 of people — and he found that they paid total taxes to the amount of 1s. 6½d. in the £. That included all their indirect taxes as well as income-tax, all Post Office profits, and everything that could properly be put to their account. He took the class of taxpayers which lay above £700 a year and under £5,000 a year. They only numbered 235,000, or with wives and children rather more than 1,000,000 of people. He found that they paid 1s. 9½d. in the £, or 3d. more than the class below them. Then he took the class at the very top of the scale, the most fortunate people, with £5,000 a year and upwards. They only numbered 15,000 people, or with their wives and children 75,000. They paid a total income-tax of 1s. 7d. in the £, or 2½d. less than the people with between £700 a year and £5,000 a year. Again, he took the great mass of the people whom the income-tax collector never troubled—numbering nearly 39,000,000, taking the population roughly at 44,000,000. He found that the income-tax which they paid amounted to 1s. 3d. in the £, or only 4d. less than was paid by the people with over £5,000 a year. That was an average for the 39,000,000. But what of the men who earned about 25s. or 35s. a week? What of the men who, like the road sweepers in his constituency, were paid only 21s. to 23s. a week by a generous Moderate borough council? What was their income-tax? It was higher than that which was paid by the limited class with over £5,000 a year. Yet in arriving at the rich man's total taxation he had included not only the Post Office profits but also the Death Duties, and he had every reason to state that that was not taxation which ought to be included in this estimate of the incidence of taxation. The Death Duties, it had been argued with very great force, were not paid by the dead or by the living. Sir Robert Giffen had very truly said that—

> "Duties upon the succession to property at death are sums reserved by the State out of property which dying people leave behind them and which are therefore not taxes upon the dying, because they are not levied until they have ceased to own the property, and not taxes upon the inheritors because they only inherit by the will and permission of the State itself."

The figures which he had given therefore so far from exaggerating the case left it under-stated. It was true that the taxes which he had been dealing with were commonly called Imperial taxes, but, if they made inquiry into local taxation it would be found that the case would be strengthened. If they considered the ordinary rates levied by local authorities, they would find that the incidence of taxation bore more and more unjustly as they descended the scale, and that our taxation was levied without any regard to the means of those who had to bear it. In view of the incidence of these taxes it would be seen how cruelly they bore upon the poor; it would be seen how indirect taxes were increased to pay their share of the expenses of the late war and had never been removed. These indirect taxes, like the effects of famine, pressed most hardly on the poor. What to a rich man was 1d. in the pound on sugar, or 6d. in the pound on some other article? It mattered very little to him, but to the poor man's budget it meant everything. He would impress upon the minds of those who talked so freely about widening the basis of taxation that it would simply mean robbing the poor, and putting on their shoulders an unjust burden of taxation. His way was now clear to consider the Resolution as a whole. Our present national expenditure was about £124,000,000—a sum not alarming in itself. On what was it spent? We spent £90,000,000 on armaments and the expenses of past wars, and only £34,000,000 remained for peace purposes. We spent on the Navy, £31,000,000, and on the Army about £30,000,000, and a similar sum for past wars, making about £90,000,000 in all. But the nation was becoming aware that it had that fierce thing we call a conscience; it at last was aware of the woes of the aged poor, of the unlovely homes of its people; of the denial of opportunity to the child. The people were becoming increasingly conscious of their condition and the causes of it, and as the late Sir William Harcourt said, we were all Socialists nowadays. Even the noble Lord the Member for South Kensington condemned the Government because they had not sufficient regard for social reform. Things must indeed be in a bad way when they found such an appeal coming from South Kensington. The national expenditure meant one-fourteenth of our income, and a high authority had set it down that when the national expenditure did not exceed one tithe of the national income, that really could not be said to be too large. With that opinion he very heartily agreed. There was general agreement that more money was needed for social reforms and all Parties had joined in a desire to grant old-age pensions, which were included in the general scheme of social reform. For his part he termed old-age pensions not a social reform but a shame-offering. Whatever the proper term, they were all agreed that it was high time that old-age pensions were granted. Speech after speech had been delivered full of sympathy for the aged poor. The facts had been pointed out again and again with wearisome reiteration, but it all ended in one cry, "Where is the money to come from?" The aged poor men and women of sixty-five years of age and over numbered about 2,000,000, and, therefore, an old-age pension of 5s. a week would cost about £26,000,000 a year. If the pensions were made claimable by persons sixty-five years of age and over the cost of pensions at sixty-five might be reduced to £21,000,000.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would remind the hon. Member that there is a Bill dealing with this subject before the House, and therefore it is not in order to discuss the details of the question now.

*Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY said he would, of course, bow to that ruling, but he wished to enter his protest against the existence of a system which precluded him from alluding to such an important subject on such an occasion as this. As he could not discuss old age pensions he would discuss the possibility of granting some other benefit, it mattered not what, to the aged. If the age was raised to seventy and the pensions were made claimable, the cost might be only £13,000,000. It was possible to obtain that sum by a readjustment of the income-tax. The upper 5,000,000 of the population paid in income-tax only 3 per cent. of their income. If their payment was increased to 5 per cent. it would raise £45,000,000 per annum, and 6 per cent. would raise £54,000,000 per annum. He claimed that it was not only possible to carry out a scheme of old-age benefit costing from £13,000,000 to £20,000,000 a year, but it was also possible, at the same time, to relieve the middle and lower middle classes of a share of the burden of taxation which now fell upon them. He did not think it was necessary for him to consider the bitter cry of those who had incomes from £1,000 to £3,000 a year, and he would like, by way of illustration, to show what was the amount of taxation borne by a man with an income of £1,000 a year at the present time. He would have to pay £50 a year in income-tax, about £33 a year in local rates, £3 15s. house duty, and his share of indirect taxation would probably be about £7 a year, making a total taxation for all purposes of £93 15s. a year, or less than one-tenth of his total income. If he pursued his calculation into the case of the man with £2,000 a year the taxation could be shown to be even less onerous. With regard to what had been said about the hardship of taxation upon men with incomes of £1,000 a year and upwards, he would remind the House that upwards of 43,000,000 out of a population of 44,000,000 had incomes below £1,000 a year. The £1,000 man was thus far up the social scale and mounted upon the shoulders of nearly the whole of the population, and to argue that a man with an income of £1,000 a year ought to be taxed at a lower rate was simply disregarding the elementary facts relating to the distribution of incomes in this country. If in rearranging the taxation of the country they had too much regard for the persons who were in such fortunate positions they would necessarily be compelled to have too little regard for the middle and the lower middle classes and the working classes. He had framed a scale beginning at one penny in the pound and rising to 2s in the pound which would have regard to the necessities of the middle class, and especially the lower middle class, and yet would secure a larger revenue than we now enjoyed. He found that an income-tax was possible which infringed none of the maxims of taxation to which he had alluded, which had regard to the means of all classes of the community, which did not, even in the case of the millionaire, exceed a tax of 2s. in the pound, and which would raise a revenue sufficient to carry out a scheme of old-age benefit costing £13,000,000 per annum. Under that scheme—which compared favourably with our existing roughly graduated plan of taxation—a payment of 16d. in the pound was only reached on incomes of £2,500, and yet there would be a revenue sufficient to grant any beneficent reform which occurred to them. It might be said that the scheme would produce so much evasion of the tax as would render nugatory all their efforts to get a larger revenue. He would like to point out in reply to that argument that during the war in South Africa the income-tax was raised to 1s. 3d. in the pound. Before the war the income-tax was 8d. in the pound and during the war it was raised to 1s. 3d., or nearly doubled. But that great increase in the tax did not lead to any evasion; the figures of the revenue authorities showed that. In the year 1900, when the income-tax was 8d. in the pound, it yielded £2,300,000 per penny. In the following year, when it was raised to 1s. in the £, in spite of the increase in abatements the yield was nearly £2,500,000 per penny. It was afterwards raised to 1s. 2d., and the yield was still £2,500,000, and when it reached 1s. 3d. the yield was £2,535,000 per penny. In view of the time at his disposal he was compelled to pass over the many other revisions of taxation which might furnish additional sources of income. He would only refer to the fact that it had been clearly shown that the licence duties might easily be readjusted to produce an extra £8,000,000 per annum, while the death duties particularly deserved their attention. The Liberal Party were pledged to show that it was possible on a basis of free trade to carry on a programme of social reforms. They had been returned not only to keep flying the free-trade flag, but also to show that it was possible, on a basis of free trade, to carry out a wide and generous policy of social reform. They would not be true to the trust which had been reposed in them if they did not pursue the policy to which he had alluded. It had been pointed out that in Germany where they had protection, there was a system of old-age pensions, but in free-trade England, old-age pensions had not been secured. That was a point which had lately been taken up by hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite, and they were representing in the constituencies that quite a small duty on the manufactured articles imported into this country would produce a revenue large enough to provide a pension scheme. That was to his mind a dangerous propaganda, and it was especially dangerous when they considered the great mass of misery and misfortune which existed in the ranks of the common people. He had in his hand only last week a document showing the terrible conditions under which the youth in one of our great industrial centres were growing up. Our cities contained 80 per cent. of the people of the country. The document to which he referred dealt with the conditions in Bradford. He found that only 10,000 out of nearly 50,000 children were sent to school decently clean, and that only about the same number could be said to be properly nurtured by their parents. Those were facts which ought to give them pause. If they turned to other great cities, whether in England, or Ireland or Scotland, they found that a similar condition of things prevailed. The poor were growing up under conditions which were not creditable to the citizens of the British Empire. In his own constituency he saw day by day the terrible poverty which existed. What, it might be asked, had that to do with the Chancellor of the Exchequer? He said that it had every thing to do with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. So long as the Treasury was poor in a rich State, so long would they continue to pass in that House Acts of Parliament which would be futile in their operation. They might pass measures dealing with the housing of the working classes, the unemployed, the condition of children in the schools, and other matters relating to the social well-being of the people; but the desired reforms could not be properly carried out until they had a readjustment of taxation to provide the means to give those reforms effect. It was insufficient for hon. Gentlemen opposite to reply that the country should adopt the system of tariff reform which they advocated. The condition of the poor was very much the same in Germany, and even in America with all its national resources. They must make up their minds that they could afford to carry out the reforms which they had set their hands to, and that the Government must no longer be a poor Government in a rich State. Viewed in that way the Budget ceased to be a mere matter of finance; it ceased to be a collection of cold facts and colder figures. It became charged with matter of life and death; with the masses who were rotting in our unlovely towns and the thousands of little children who looked up and were not fed. It was not figures alone they were dealing with; they were concerned with the lives and labours of great multitudes of people whose future prosperity depended on the action which might be taken there to remedy the evils from which they suffered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, having regard to the wealth of the United Kingdom and the nature of its distribution, it is necessary to readjust the burden of taxation in order to make provision for social reforms which are urgently needed."—(*Mr. Bennett.*)

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): My hon. friends have shown, in admirable and instructive speeches, that from their point of view this is an opportune moment for introducing this discussion. The speech of the hon. Member for the Woodstock Division was a thoughtful and admirable presentation of the main outlines of the case. As to the seconder of the Motion, during the fiscal controversy no one contributed more to a sound and healthy state of public opinion, and to-night he has shown that he is capable of preparing and developing and expounding a Budget to the House of Commons. I congratulate them both heartily on the contribution they have made to our stock of knowledge. I regret, however, that I am not myself in a position to follow their example. I must reserve whatever I have to say on this subject for another three weeks. The House will believe, however, that in saying that I am not treating the Motion with any disrespect. For obvious reasons it is impossible for me to go into matters to-night which I am very much afraid I shall not be able to shrink from two or three weeks hence. The Government accept the Motion, and ask the House to assent to it, both in letter and in spirit. Speaking for myself,I believe the business of Liberal finance at this time, after we have made adequate provision for the services of the country, and its security and good administration, consists negatively in the maintenance of our system of free trade, and affirmatively in doing everything that lies in our power to maintain and improve the national credit, and to provide funds for social reform. Whether we shall succeed in carrying out a policy based on those lines time alone can show, but I shall ask in advance, as I shall have to ask again before very long, that, if we proceed by cautious steps, our efforts may be watched with patience as well as with sympathy. The House may be assured that no one is more determined than we are, so far as our opportunities offer, to bring about, I hope in the lifetime of this Parliament, some, at any rate, of the most important of the great social reforms which have been alluded to.

*MR. HILLS (Durham) said he desired in the first place to direct the attention of the House to the speech of the hon. Member for North Paddington. The hon. Member had told them that the present system of taxation fell too heavily on the poorer classes, and then he produced his own budget. He understood that the scheme of the hon. Member was to keep all taxes, except the income-tax, at the same level, and in order to get the money he wanted he would place a surtax on large incomes, and thereby get a revenue of between £13,000,000 and £14,000,000. He would not at present discuss whether that could be done or not. He had always been a believer in a graduated income-tax. He thought there would be less dislocation of industry, and less difficulty in connection with a fairly graduated income-tax than with any other single tax. But surely the conclusion arrived at by the hon. Member opposite left untouched the question of the burden of taxation on the poor. Our present system of taxation was extremely hard and unfair on the poorer classes of the population. We had slowly shifted all our taxes to articles which we did not produce, and for ease of collection the imposts were placed on articles from which a large amount could be raised. Hence it had come about that the vast burden of indirect taxation was now borne by the very poorest classes. Everybody drank tea or coffee, and most people took sugar with it, and a great many people smoked tobacco. All these articles were necessities, or *quasi* necessities of life, and they were necessities of the very poorest householders. When they came to deal with the question of taxation they must look at it as a whole. It was no good for the hon. Gentleman to say that an extra sum could be got from a graduated income-tax. We had to readjust the whole scheme of our taxation, and find a way of raising the same amount of, or more, money by some means which would not hit our people so hard. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had spoken about free trade and protection. He quite agreed that the real struggle between the two policies would come on the revenue question. That would be the field of battle, for the Party opposite had got to show that they could finance their social programme on a free trade basis. The hon. Member for North Paddington was perfectly fair about that. He had stated clearly that if the Party opposite did not do that, it would be they who were to blame, and not the advocates of tariff reform. We raised £34,000,000 in import duties, and yet we called ourselves a free trade and non-tariff country, because in imposing those duties we looked to the revenue return of the tax only, and not to the protective character of the tax. We confined ourselves to a duty on a few articles, because the duty was easy of collection. But why should we not extend the list? The only argument that he could see against the extension of the list of dutiable articles was the argument of convenience. The first objection to a revenue tax was that if a small tax on an article which we produced was imposed, the cost of that article would be raised all round. But all economists from Mill downwards agreed that in the case of small duties, importers would pay the tax rather than lose the market. The question of the incidence of taxation was no doubt a very thorny one. But he would point out that it could not be said for certain that import duties must raise prices. Internal competition would keep them down. At any rate, even if the Chancellor of the Exchequer wished to keep in his mind the revenue side of the question only, and to avoid all protective tendency, there was no reason why the present list of dutiable articles should not be extended so as to include articles that we were able to produce in this country. By that means he did not think the cost would be increased, nor did he think the tax would be strictly protective. He believed that by that means a large revenue could be raised. It was said that if this tax was imposed on imported things which were produced in this country, it would benefit the home producer, and lead to the formation of trusts. But such an argument could not be sustained, for trusts existed in free trade countries like ours. The newspapers of this country were a few months ago ringing with denunciations of a trust, and the free Press, not free trade, killed it. Even admitting a tendency to the aggregation of industries which we called trusts under a high tariff, there would not be that tendency with a low duty upon a more extended list of articles than now bore duty. There might be a large extension, and the taxes would fall very lightly on the people. In protectionist countries, in America, for instance, luxuries, not the common articles daily used by the poor, bore the brunt of this form of contribution to the revenue. A comparison of the price lists in New York and London would show that many things were as cheap or cheaper in New York. It was not the cost of living, but the price of luxuries that was raised. [MINISTERIAL and LABOUR cries of "No!"]

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY said there was evidence to show that the cost of living in the United States had risen 50 per cent. since 1897.

*MR. HILLS said that he was aware of that, but even now articles used by the poor were as cheap as in England. [MIINSTERIAL and LABOUR cries of "No, no!"] Imported articles, such as clothes and carpets, were a great deal dearer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might also include a few luxuries in his list. He might raise a considerable revenue on silk manufactures and still not raise the price sufficiently to cause the transfer of the silk trade to this country, which, of course, would be against the free-trade creed. He hoped that a more effective Budget would be produced than we had recently been accustomed to. There had been enough of niggling with the tea and tobacco duty. Our Chancellors of the Exchequer must go further afield.

MR. HEMMERDE (Denbighshire, E.) agreed that in a graduated income tax and an increase in the license duties they might find a convenient source of revenue to carry out social reforms. He had intervened because of the omission by previous speakers of one possible source of revenue for which he quoted the authority of the right hon. Gentleman the member for West Birmingham himself. He referred to the land. It would not be wise on the part of the present Government to adhere to the present basis of taxation, and to pledge the national credit up to the hilt for social reforms, only to leave the Tariff Reform Party to argue that they could not find further taxes except by recourse to protection. Why should a tax not be put upon land values? That would then only resume a part of the wealth which the growth of the community and the labour of the people had created. This would be more defensible economically than putting taxes on the food or necessities of the people. The hon. Member for Durham had suggested a number of revenue taxes, but he became confused more than once as to which were protective taxes and which were revenue taxes. There were very few actual revenue taxes which could be put on, and the hon. Member did not suggest any new ones. In dealing with the land question they would always find the same objections as those which were raised when dealing with the licensing question. When it was proposed to tax licences more highly and to deal more drastically with the drink trade, they were told that the person they would be attacking was the small publican; but they knew they were attacking the great brewer and not the small freeholder at all. When they came forward with proposals for the taxation of land values they would no doubt be again reminded of the small friendly societies with their property and trust funds invested in land, and then they would remember the case of the licensed victuallers and the brewers. In dealing with the question of the taxation of land values they had the great advantage of being supported by the great economists of the country and by the experience of other countries and some of the Colonies; while the great protectionist leader pointed twenty years ago to what could be done by it. Not only would it provide revenue, but it would have important collateral effects. It would have an important effect on the housing problem in making land cheaper. If they taxed land upon its real value it must have the effect of clearing out the rookeries and slum dwellings in all our great towns, and of making land cheaper for housing schemes. If they were right upon the question of taxing land values, and if the theory was a sound one, then it would provide them with the best of all taxes. A tax of 1d. in the pound on the capital value of land would produce a revenue of £15,000,000 a year. He personally hankered after the abolition of the present tax on sugar and tea. When they were told, almost *ad nauseam*, that there were 12,000,000 people in the country on the verge of starvation, the best way to relieve them was to take off the taxes which pressed most hardly upon them; and that could be done if the taxation of land values were adopted. It would also have an indirect effect. The man who supported tariff reform or protection when he faced the country at an election declared that he was against food taxes and only wanted to take them off one article and put them on another. If the taxes were taken off all articles of food, not only would the poor be relieved, but those gentlemen would be prevented from making that double-shuffle. He hoped that the Government would be able, by developing the great resources of revenue, such as the drink monopoly and the great land monopoly, to spare these smaller sources of revenue. He hoped they would be able to take all these indirect taxes off the people. Indirect taxation could never be graduated. It always struck the poor out of all proportion to the rich. People sometimes said the poor did not feel it, but he had never heard a person defending a pickpocket argue that he should be acquitted on the ground that the person who was robbed did not know it at the time. He believed indirect taxes were bad taxes, and that there were many much better sources of revenue. It was because he believed that and wanted to see land really dealt with and the proposed charges on land made what they really ought to be that he had intervened in the debate.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said the scheme of the hon. Member for North Paddington was as simple as possible. All they had to do was to raise a considerable amount from income tax and institute a system of graduation on incomes over a certain amount. The scheme of the mover of the Motion was not nearly so well defined; and then came the most amazing speech of the hon. Member who had just sat down, who had confined himself entirely to the taxation of land. The hon. Gentleman seemed to think that by the simple means of taxing land they would solve all the social problems which faced them at the present time. What was it that the land was suffering from? Surely it was that it was overburdened by taxation, whether local or Imperial, and the question with those who represented rural districts was how to remove that great burden rather than how they were to impose fresh taxation upon the land. The man who lived in an urban district got a direct benefit from the gas and water and other things for which he was taxed; but what about the man who had an outlying farm, who paid a sanitary rate for works which were three miles off, and who also paid a police rate and a highway rate for roads which he himself did not need? That was the form of taxation which did most harm in rural districts. It was not by increasing but by reducing the burdens on the land that they would give the greater benefit to the country. The distribution of wealth had completely changed. The incidence of taxation in rural districts was grossly unfair and was levied on the class least able to bear it. The rich man in the rural districts was not the man who paid the greatest share of the rates, but the man who paid least; the imported commercial man who had built a house on a small plot of land and the wealthy tradesman in the village, though they might not be very wealthy, did not pay anything like the rates the farmer of the land paid. A farmer was paying income-tax on £566 a year with a rateable value of £1,050, and he paid £157, as compared with a tradesman in the same neighbourhood who had £600 a year, and paid only £13 10s. All these things made it perfectly clear that the incidence of taxation in rural districts was grossly unfair. What he was perfectly certain of was that it must injure the cause of social reform in rural districts, and that the condition of the labourer and workman in those districts was bound to be worse because of this unfair incidence. It was the incidence of the rates which pressed unfairly on the rural districts; and he thought it would be freely admitted that if the rural districts could be taxed more fairly there would be greater chance of employment and of better wages. The social condition of the labourers might then be expected to improve. It was often suggested that it would be better to take the burden off the occupier and put it on the owner, but that only brought them back to the question of the land paying the rate in one form or another. They could not get away from the fact that as between the owner of land and the owner of personalty the amount of rates paid by the former was unfair and unjust. When Members discussed the better housing of the working classes and the provision of small holdings, he hoped that they would realise that this rating question was one which underlay the possibility of making those reforms a success. Many Members, in all parts of the House, earnestly desired to see some better form of rural housing and some successful form of small holdings. But how were they going to get men to improve their holdings, or invest their money in small holdings, if, the moment they did one or the other, a heavy rate was put upon them out of all proportion to the value of their property? He hoped that the House would excuse him for having brought the subject before them at length, but he believed that a great many who lived in urban districts, and who had not considered this problem, were not aware of the great grievance of which they had to complain in rural districts—a grievance which was well deserving the consideration of the House.

*MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme) said that would-be reformers should in no way cavil at each others' methods if their ends were the same, and he rose, not in any degree in hostility to any other hon. Members who had addressed the House, but as the mouthpiece of that group of Members who believed that no scheme, however excellent, could cause a lasting improvement in the country's prosperity until the incidence of taxation had been removed from improvements and personal effort, and was imposed instead in such a manner as to stimulate production. He referred to the scheme, widely advocated throughout the world and already successfully practised in many countries, of taxing the unimproved value of land. In their opinion, none of the other proposed reforms could attain to their full effect until that had been done; for this reason, that a large part of any improvement, whether in the condition of the worker, or in the condition of trade, went, and must necessarily go, to enhance land values. At present, by far the heaviest tax on industry were the local rates, both urban and rural. It was these local rates that did most to check improvements. In their view, no reform could be so beneficial as one which removed from improvements the hampering effect of that charge. Would the House tolerate a very short parable which exactly illustrated his point? "There was a Sultan in Egypt and he taxed the people. For each fig-tree he took payment of ten dinars. So it came to pass that the people cut down their fig-trees. Then another Sultan arose, and he took the tax off fig-trees, and taxed instead the soil from which all good things must come. And behold, the people planted fig-trees with diligence, and the land flourished exceedingly." That parable put in a nutshell the main case for the taxation of land values. At present every improvement, every fig-tree, was taxed, and therefore few improvements were made; manufactories got out of date, slums fell into worse disrepair, houses stood empty, and agricultural land was starved of capital. —all because the tax was on improvements. If a man put up a new warehouse in his factory he was taxed more; if a railway company put up a goods shed to accommodate traffic, it was taxed more; if a landlord drained a marsh, worth nothing, and made it worth £5 an acre, he was taxed more. In the borough of Hanley they put a tax of 50 per cent. on improvements. No wonder they did not get capital for improvements in Hanley, and that it was invested instead in the Pennsylvania Railroad or in Japanese bonds. There was a most unfortunate impression abroad—quite an erroneous one—that their scheme was intended to penalise the landlords. Nothing of the sort. They wanted merely to stop the system which penalised the man who used his land or his talents well and taxed him for the benefit of the man who used them badly. They did not want to tap new sources of revenue. They wanted substitution, and not new taxation. Their scheme was backed and exactly defined in the Report of the Select Committee on the Taxation of Land Values (Scotland) Bill; signed by the Solicitor-General for Scotland, and drafted by him in wording so admirable that he made no apology to the House for quoting the conclusion he arrived at—

> "A valuation of land values should be set on foot throughout Scotland in both burghs and counties. . . . All local taxation should be transferred from the present valuations of the valuations of land value, thus substituting local taxation of land value for all the present local taxation of landed property."

And again—

> "We consider the benefits of the proposed system lie, not so much in 'tapping a new source of revenue,' as in the economic benefits which would result from a fundamental reform of the system of taxation. . . . The positive side is the taxation of landed property on the basis of its market value. . . . The negative side is the untaxing of buildings and improvements."

To show the effects of this change on the urban landlord, he gave one instance. A firm, whose name he had the honour to bear, but in which he unfortunately had no financial interest, had a freehold potworks in the Borough of Hanley. It was recently revalued for assessment purposes, and they found the value of the land was £300 and the buildings £600 a year. That was one-third land and two-thirds buildings. Now, those best qualified told him the valuation of the whole of Hanley was about one-third land and two-thirds buildings and improvements. Rates were at present 10s. in the £ on land and buildings in Hanley. If rates were based on land alone, and the same revenue had to be raised, the assessment would rise to 30s. in the £ on the unimproved land value. It sounded enormous. They would be paying 30s. in the £ on their land. Yet they would only be paying exactly the same amount that they paid at present, for they would be assessed on their land value alone, one-third of their full present assessment. And they would be better off, for they could improve their property without being taxed for doing so. Manufacturers would be better off, because they would be able to improve their business. The people of Hanley would be better off, because they would get more; and everybody who valued good ware would be able to get the best cheaper than at present. Everybody, therefore, would benefit by the change. The average urban landlord would therefore benefit by the change; but what was true of the average urban landlord was also true of the average rural landlord. And what was true of local rates was also true of Imperial taxation. Suppose the rural landlord developed his land by small holdings, suppose he invested his money in building, fencing, draining and manuring. When, by intensive cultivation, and great expenditure of thought, labour and capital, he had doubled the return from his land, his rates were raised by the present system, and he was actually punished for his improvements. The land next door, of the same unimproved value, owned it might be by an absentee and starved of capital, actually paid less and less in proportion to its owner's inactivity, in proportion to his incapacity. But, if the Report of the Scotch Committee were adopted, and rates were based not on the rent received for land and buildings, but on the unimproved value of the land, that suicidal policy would be reversed. The tax, instead of being a deterrent, would be an encouragement to the proper employment of brains and capital. Then his friends wished to take a further step. In order to obviate the injustice which so often arose through limitations of boundary, as for instance, in the London boroughs—an injustice which frequently laid a heavy burden on a poor district, and a comparatively light one on a rich district—they proposed to take part of the local rate on land values, and make it a uniform Imperial tax. The revenue which was thus obtained, irrespective of these fancy boundaries which municipalities set up, could be used to free local authorities from the poor rate and education rate—rates which pressed with undue severity on poor districts and on rural areas. That would spread the burden over the whole country in accordance with their ability to pay, and therefore it would largely relieve rural areas from the crushing rates which oppressed the agricultural industry. Incidentally it would do away with the necessity for those complicated, extravagant, and at the same time often wasted subsidies known as grants-in-aid. This change in the incidence of taxation had therefore two objects—(1) the freeing of improvements from taxation and the equalisation of burden between rich and poor districts; (2) the securing for the community the full benefit of all future unearned increment of land—of all future accidental improvement in land values. The rate and tax on unimproved land values would practically absorb into the national and local exchequers the whole of the unimproved land value, and that without in any way increasing the burden which the good landlord had to bear, but rather diminishing it. Therefore, if the value of land went up anywhere through outside causes and not through the owners' efforts, the increased value would increase the assessment and would increase the revenue to be got from that assessment; so that the whole of the unearned increment would not go as at present to the private individual, but would become the earned increment of the community or State which had given the value. [Dissent.] He was assuming that the improvement was not due to the owner, but solely to some outside cause for which the owner was not responsible. The London County Council had lately found out to their cost that a large part of the benefits they had conferred upon Londoners—parks, tramways, free ferries, and street improvements—had gone to increase rents. Unfortunately for them this increase in the value of land had only occurred in patches, where the improvements were made, so that the majority of London landlords could not be accused of ingratitude for their action in the late elections. What Parliament had to do was to see that all their social reforms did not end in the same way. If small holdings re-peopled the countryside, up would go the price of land. If aged pensioners were able to end their days in their own homes instead of the workhouse, the demand for cottages would be greater all over the country, and consequently cottage rents would rise. If they dissuaded the people from wasting their money in drink, trade would improve, and the value of land would rise in consequence. Public money, however expended, whether in helping landlords to build good cottages or to finance small holders, or to plant forests, or to dig canals, or to reclaim foreshores, raised the unimproved value of land throughout the whole neighbourhood. If Parliament would only preface these reforms by the taxation and rating reform which he and his friends advocated, the whole of the increased value would go back to the community and help to pay for the improvements. If they did not do that, more than half the advantage that they expected to see from these great reforms would drift into private and undeserving pockets. He asked the House to support the reform which was recommended by the Solicitor-General for Scotland in his Report of the Scottish Committee last session when he said that—

> "All local taxation should be transferred from the present valuations to the valuations of land value, thus substituting the local taxation of land value for all the present local taxation of landed property."

If they did that they would free the improvements from taxation, cause an enormous boom in the industries of the country, equalise the burden between rich and poor districts, and secure for the community the full benefit of all the reforms they carried out.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said that after listening to the speeches of various hon. Members one was driven to the conclusion that the present system of taxation was thoroughly unsatisfactory. It was a pity that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not heard all the arguments. The hon. Member for East Denbighshire had quoted the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham in support of the statement that a tax of a penny in the pound on land values would produce £15,000,000 a year of revenue.

MR. HEMMERDE: On the capital value of land values.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said he would have very much liked to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer's opinion on that particular point. Of course it was a matter which was very hard to decide. It rested entirely on the method in which the land values were going to be computed and assessed. Although there was a great deal to be said in favour of additional taxation of land in large towns, he thought it was difficult to draw the line, and to form a basis of taxation except in respect of the return it gave to the owner. He would like to ask the hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme how he proposed to raise sufficient revenue for all local and imperial purposes, if he was going to put a tax only on the unimproved value of land.

MR. WEDGWOOD: I do not think we should get anything like the whole of our taxation in that way.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said that was the admission which he hoped to get from the hon. Gentleman. He was entitled to ask where the rest of the money was to come from. He understood that the hon. Gentleman approached the question from a practical point of view. He gathered from the remarks of the hon. Member that by putting this very heavy tax on the unimproved value of land they would tax unimproved land out of existence altogether. He did not know whether other hon. Gentlemen assented to that proposition. In other words the hon. Gentleman said that the local authority would become the owner of the unimproved land by default on the part of the owner.

MR. WEDGWOOD: The unimproved value of the land—say a field—will not be the full value of the field, and the landlord will remain the landlord of the capital sunk in the field, but the local authority will become automatically the owner of the unimproved value.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said that was a very good theory, and he would like very much to be able to support it from the practical point of view. It meant that land on which nothing had been spent for improvement, which had been considered worthless, or practically worthless, and not worth spending money on to improve, would be taxed out of existence, and would become the property of the State or of the local authority. The result would be that the State and the local authority would be left in the possession of all the worst land in the country, a great deal of which could not be turned to any use. Then there was another point to which he wished to refer, viz., the incidence of the poor rate. If there was any charge which should be paid by the wealth of the country it was the poor rate. It was the duty of the rich to pay for the poor, but that was not the principle on which the poor rate was at present based. There might be two men living in similarly-sized houses in the same place, one with an income of £300 a year, and the other with an income of £3,000 a year, and yet they paid exactly the same poor rate. That was an absolutely rotten system, which bore hardly on rural districts which paid far more than their proper share of the poor rate. He maintained that the poor rate, as at present levied, was a most unjust tax, especially in the rural districts, and he believed that if it were placed on a proper basis they would do a great deal for the promotion of small holdings, and of agriculture generally.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said he was sorry that the hon. Member for Durham had spoken somewhat contemptuosly of taking off 1d. from the duty on tea. For his part he only despised a 1d. when he had 2d. in sight. He hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to take 2d. off the tea duty. The tea industry was peculiarly deserving of the sympathy of that House. Tea was grown by British capital, in British possessions, and by British-Indian labour. Such labour in no way competed with white labour; only natives could work in the Indian sun, and the more worked on these estates the more work there was for white labour by way of supervision. He wished it was understood that where white and coloured labour met, the function of white labour was the supervision of coloured labour, and there really was no competition between the two classes. They should do all they could to equalise taxation, but he deprecated the habit of dividing the people of the country into rich and poor, and suggesting that there was a necessary antagonism between classes, or that some classes were "propertied" and others were not. What was the limit of property, which made a man one of the "propertied classes"? The hon. Member for Denbighshire had spoken of making an attack on the drink monopoly. He himself supported to the utmost the temperance policy, but it was from a love of temperance, and not from a desire to attack the brewers, who, at this moment, were not absolutely rolling in ill-gotten wealth. An attack on brewers or on railway companies might be a very good cry for an outside political platform, but, in the result, it did the Liberal Party no good, but rather harm, for most people had something to lose, and no one knew whose turn might come next, if "attacks" became lawful politics. The hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme had treated the House to a very interesting tale of an Egyptian Pasha, whose fig tree by careful compression he had, to use his own phrase, put into a nutshell. If he might venture to indulge in anecdotal mood he might say that he remembered a case of a beggar who cried aloud to a Persian ruler, "Give me a brother's fortune." As everybody knew, beggars in the East were very importunate, and could not be treated with indifference, though the courtiers try to drive them away. The King said, "Come to me to-morrow." The beggar went the next day to the palace of the king, who gave him a 1d.; but the beggar said, "I wanted a brother's portion," whereupon the King replied, "If I gave all my brothers a 1d., I should not have a ½d. left for myself." This tale was much to the point when the rich and poor were treated, as if they were sharply defined different classes, as indeed they were in the great Protectionist Empires of Europe, and in the East, but as fortunately they were not in this island. He did not think the poor were in this country so sharply divided from the rich as they were in other countries. He thought there was great sympathy between the different classes in this country, and it was absolutely impossible to say where the line of demarcation between rich and poor began. Though unhappily there were more who were undoubtedly poor—than he could wish. As to the taxation of the country, let them be fair to everybody who owned anything, while they should be slow to put the onus of taxation on their poorer brethren wherever it could be avoided. He would take the case of the experimental politician to illustrate his point. The experimental politician said that everything should be divided equally. He remembered an account of a conversation upon that point. One man said to the other, "If you had two horses would not you give me one?" and the answer was "Yes, certainly." The next question was, "If you had two cows would you give me one?" and again the answer was "Yes." Then the question was asked, "If you had two pigs would you give me one?" and the answer this time was, "That is not fair, because you know that I have two pigs." Let every one who was not abjectly poor remember he had something to lose, and that there were always idle wastrels prepared to divide what he had as well as the greater fortunes of the rich. The small belongings of the small owners in the aggregate, were more than the possessions of the rich, and would in their turn be plundered, if once the policy of division all round were adopted. He did want the House to do all they could to equalise taxation, but let not them get into the habit of dividing the people of this country into rich and poor, and making out that there were two classes between whom there was a necessary antagonism. His hon. friend the Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme had dealt with the question of rates, which he had very truly said were very heavy, and he had proceeded to show that the best way of dealing with high rates was to pass them on to somebody else. For himself he believed that was the best way of dealing with high rates, so long as one could do it and from one's own point of view, but under that system the time came when there was nobody to whom to pass them on. Moreover a time would come when they would have to consider whether the rates were spent in a manner of which they could fully approve. Then the hon. Member spoke of the unimproved value of the land, and he would like to have that phrase exactly defined, because it was difficult without exact definition to know what the hon. Member really did propose. Did he mean the prairie value? Hardly. But what exactly did he mean? Several hon. Gentlemen had offered Budgets to the House, but they had all been in some respects either too experimental or too sentimental to suit practical politics, and the net result in his own case was that he was glad that the national finances were in the hands of the experts, and he believed that while that continued to be the case, there was a far better chance of funds being available, not only for the necessary services of the country, but for much needed social reforms.

MR. BENNETT rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put"; but Mr. SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) argued that protection was the only financial system under which it would be possible to make provision for social reform, and said that according to the last statistics the poor people of this country paid more in taxation than the poor people of Germany or America. Mr. Carnegie had told them recently that a sovereign would buy more food and clothes for the people of America than it would for the people of this country. Under a system of free imports Germany and America had fewer poor people than we had here, fewer unskilled persons who were unable to gain a livelihood, and fewer people who were untidy in the streets or in their houses. The reason was that the necessaries of the poor were so heavily taxed in this country. The people of this country had to pay the whole of the taxes. Nearly all the luxuries of the poor were taxed, whilst with the exception of alcohol and tobacco the luxuries of the rich were allowed to come into this country free.

MR. BENNETT rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put"; but Mr. SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

MR. HUNT argued further that everything that the poor consumed was taxed, while the rich to a large extent escaped.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That, in the opinion of this House, having regard to the wealth of the United Kingdom, and the nature of its distribution, it is necessary to readjust the burden of taxation in order to make provision for social reforms which are urgently needed."

ESTABLISHED CHURCH (SCOTLAND) (ELECTION OF MINISTERS).

Copy ordered, "of the regulations framed and enacted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to be observed in the election and appointment of Ministers under the powers conferred upon them by the Patronage Abolition Act, and Returns for each parish in Scotland of the last occasion since 1897 on which a vacancy has been filled up under any such regulations of the General Assembly, stating as follows:—

(1) The population, male and female, at the last preceding census of each such parish.

(2) The number of male voters and female voters respectively qualified as communicants.

(3) The number of male voters and female voters respectively qualified as adherents.

(4) The total number of voters on the roll."—(*Mr. McCallum.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (PROCEDURE).

Postponed Proceeding on Question [20th March]—

(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate, otherwise order, and such a Motion shall not require notice, must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time, may be made by any Member, and may, though opposed, be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business. But this order shall shall not apply to—

(*a*) Bills for imposing taxes or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or

(*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders.

(2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes, and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall, without further debate put the Question thereon—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman*)—resumed.

Question again proposed.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday, 8th April.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire and report as to the cost and method of reporting and publishing the debates and proceedings in Parliament.

Committee accordingly nominated of, Mr. Charles Allen, Mr. Barran, Mr. Hicks Beach, Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Lehmann, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Toulmin, and Mr. Walrond.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) announced that he intended to move the suspension of the eleven o'clock rule the next day in order to ensure the passing of the Motion for the adjournment for the Easter holidays.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said he noticed that the hon. Gentleman had put down the rules of procedure for Monday week; he did not think he could intend to take them on that day, because there was a distinct understanding that they should not be taken till the following Thursday.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said there was certainly an understanding that that business should not be taken till Thursday. At all events, there was a tentative understanding.

Adjourned at eight minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 27th March, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Burnley Corporation Bill; Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

BYRNE'S DIVORCE BILL [LORDS].

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House Copies of the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings, together with Documents deposited, in the case of Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords], and that the Clerk do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Select Committee on Divorce Bills, that they do hear counsel and examine witnesses for Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords], and also that they do hear counsel and examine witnesses against the Bill, if the parties concerned see fit to be heard by counsel and produce witnesses.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Allanshane; Audley; Black Park; Broomhouse; Brown Edge; Bunkers Hill; Burley; Bucknall; Cheadle; Coegnant; Crynant; Cynon; Eccleston; Ellismuir; Draycott; Fenton; Foxfield; Golden Hill; Govan; Grange; Halmer's End, Hanley (Nos. 1 2, and 3); Holmwood (No. 1); Kidsgrove (Nos. 6 and 18); Leycett; Longton (Nos. 1 and 2); Maesteg (two); Milton Lodge; Padell-y-Bwlch; Priory; Seven Sisters; Skelmersdale; Sneyd; Swinhill; Talke; Watermills; and Whitfield Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Kircaldy, against; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Bowmore; Glasgow; and Oakenshaw; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from Surrey and other places, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES).

Return [presented 25th March] to be printed. [No. 97.]

ARMY (MILITIA UNITS).

Copy presented, of Return showing the Establishment of each Unit of Militia in the United Kingdom, and the numbers present, absent, and wanting to complete, at the training of 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualities as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st December, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).

Copy presented, of Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 98.]

EXPLOSIONS (ARDEER, AYRSHIRE).

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion of nitro-glycerine, which occurred at the factory of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, at Ardeer, near Stevenson, Ayrshire, on the 5th February, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT-HOURS DAY FOR MINERS).

Copy presented, of First Report (with Evidence) of a Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to inquire into the probable economic effect of a limit of Eight Hours to the Working Day of Coal Miners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COURT OF SESSION (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1868.

Copy presented, of Act of Sederunt to regulate Procedure in the Court of Session [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIES (GENERAL).

Copy presented, of Circular Despatch, dated 15th February, 1907, relative to the part taken by ex-Governors of Colonies in the organisation or direction of companies formed to operate in Territories which they were recently administering [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1859.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 16th March, 1907, removing the office of Assistant to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew from the operation of Section 4 of the Superannuation Act, 1859 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3752 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DEER FORESTS (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "of particulars of all Deer Forests and Lands exclusively devoted to sport in counties other than crofting counties in Scotland, in the following form:—

County.	Name of Deer Forest or other Subject.	Proprietor.	Acreage.	Rental as in Valuation Roll.

—(*Mr. Molteno.*)

COMPULSORY NATIVE LABOUR (COLONIES).

Address for, "Return showing (a) the names of the various Colonies or British Possessions in which Compulsory Native Labour is employed, and upon what work, distinguishing the class of Native, namely, nationality or tribe; (b) whether the Natives so employed are liable to be employed outside the districts in which they usually reside; (c) the number of such Natives respectively; (d) the conditions under which Natives so employed are housed or live, whether in fenced or enclosed areas or otherwise, also stating whether any restrictions are placed upon their individual liberty at times other than when they are engaged on their ordinary daily labour; (e) what, if any, regulations exist and are in practice for the punishment of such Natives respectively for desertion or misconduct, stating the nature of the offence and punishment, and if such regulations and practice have had the sanction of the Government or governing authority of the Colony or Possessions;

(f) at what date and under what legal enactment, if any, the system was introduced."—(*Mr. Molteno.*)

INSPECTORS OF MINES.

Address for "Return of the names and previous occupations or professions of the Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors who are now serving; the dates of their appointment; and the number of candidates who sat at the examinations when each was successful, in so far as the appointments have been filled by competitive examination."—(*Mr. Summerbell.*)

ARMY (COMMISSIONS).

Address for "Return as to the number of Commissions granted during each of the years 1885 to 1906 inclusive (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 153, of Session 1903)."—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

His Majesty's Ship "Renown."

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the work of reconverting the "Renown" into a battleship has now been completed; what is the total cost of the alterations rendered necessary by the special service for which the ship was selected; and in what year's Estimates, and in what Vote was the cost referred to included.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) No work has been done to "Renown," but she can be completed for active fighting service at short notice. The net cost of the alterations was £12,298, mainly brought to account under Vote 8 in 1905–6.

Ships' Libraries.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what new books, periodicals, and newspapers, were ordered for officers' and ships' libraries in 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I am forwarding to my hon. friend a list of 226 books ordered for officers' and ships' libraries during the past year, as it would be impossible to give all the titles within the limits of an ordinary reply.

Irish Land Purchase Delays.

MR. NIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that both landlords and tenants in Ireland have suffered loss by reason of the delay which is taking place in dealing with properties under The Land Purchase Act, 1903, landlords by reason of their having to pay in full all interest and charges on mortgages, while they receive no interest on the bonus, and tenants by reason of their having to pay interest until the completion of the sale; and whether he will, at an early date, make such alterations in the administrative machinery as to cause these applications to be dealt with with greater expedition.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The total advances applied for amount to £47,193,803. Of this amount the sum of £16,320,422 has already been advanced, and the Commissioners have themselves entered into agreements for purchase up to the sum of £635,373. There is at present a sum of £261,031 available for further advances, and it is expected that this amount will be advanced by the end of this month. As I have already stated, further issues of stock will be made from time to time as necessity arises. The sum of £28,500,000 represents the advances applied for and not yet made in cases of direct sale by landlord to tenant. The losses referred to in the Question by landlords in having to pay interest on charges pending completion of sale, and by tenants in having to pay interest instead of instalments, are unavoidable unless £30,000,000 of stock were immediately floated and the Estates Commissioners' staff enormously increased, both of which conditions are impracticable. It is to be remembered that landlords and tenants when entering into agreements were aware that money would not be available for some years to come. The question of the amount of money to be provided for land purchase in the coming financial year is now engaging serious attention. The Goverment have every desire that land purchase should be accelerated as much as possible.

Scottish Railway Accident.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the fact that some 25,000 signatures have been attached to a petition in favour of the recommendation to mercy of the prisoner Gourlay, he will give the matter his most prompt and careful consideration.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I shall certainly do so.

Land Purchase Trustee.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the public trustee, appointed under the Land Purchase Act of 1903, can act as trustee in cases other than of sales under that Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The public trustee is appointed solely for the purposes of the Land Purchase Acts, and I am advised that he cannot, as such, act as trustee of moneys other than the proceeds of sales under those Acts.

Courtown Harbour.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Department of Agriculture in Ireland have reported with regard to the case of Courtown Harbour; and, if so, can he state the nature of their Report.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have received a Report on Courtown Harbour from the Department of Agriculture, and will send a copy of it to the hon. Baronet.

Arklow Harbour.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Board of Works and the Department of Agriculture in Ireland have yet arrived at an agreement with regard to the improvement of Arklow Harbour, in accordance with the arrangement come to last winter; and when will the work be begun.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Irish Government have provisionally arranged with the Department of Agriculture for the carrying out of the scheme agreed upon at the recent conference at Arklow. Certain steps have to be taken before the work can be begun, and these are being pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

Irish Potato Crop Failure.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now give full particulars of the plan adopted by the Irish Government for dealing with urgent distress in districts affected by the potato blight last autumn, for the supply of sound potato seed in cases where, owing to the failure of last year's crop and to poverty, the people are unable to procure a supply of sound seed.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Government are adhering as closely as possible to the course of procedure for the relief of distress which was indicated by my predecessor in his reply to the hon. Member's Question of December 5th.† I am glad to be able to state that Mr. Bryce's favourable forecast as to the conditions and prospects of the small landholders has been justified. The numbers in receipt of poor relief throughout the winter have been low, and at present are even lower than they were this time last year. Any abnormal distress that exists is confined to very limited areas in certain exceptionally poor districts in the West, where the failure of the potato crop was most serious, and where the rates are high and much poverty at the best of times is always present. In these localities the Local Government Board are applying the balance of the distress funds in their hands for the purpose of affording employment to the very poorest people through local committees, on which the district and county councillors and the clergy are represented. These committees are selecting the workers and inquiring into the needs of the applicants, and, where necessary, are affording employment on works of utility. Where they consider it expedient to do so, they are making arrangements for the importation of fresh seed on which the workers may spend their earnings. The guardians of the poor are, however, by law responsible for the relief of distress, and, so far as these special arrangements do not adequately provide for all classes of destitute poor, the guardians must exercise their powers under the ordinary laws, supplemented, if necessary, by the provisions of Section 13 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The Agricultural Board in the Department of Agriculture had voted a sum of £10,000 for the purpose of enabling advances to be made to the people for the purchase of seed through the medium of agricultural banks. In addition to these measures the scheme of the Department outlined in Professor Campbell's evidence before the Royal Commission on Congestion, a copy of which has been handed to the hon. Member, has been put partially into execution. It will be more fully carried into effect as funds become available.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvi., 941-4

Distribution of Seed Potatoes in Ireland.

MR. DILLON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the plan of distributing potato seed through co-operative banks adopted by the Agricultural Department; whether the Irish Government approve of this scheme; and whether he can state the full details of the scheme.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Department of Agriculture, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, have made arrangements for utilising agricultural credit societies in the western districts for the purpose of facilitating the introduction of new seed for the potato and other crops. Under this scheme the Department assist existing societies by the loan of additional capital in cases in which the existing capital is insufficient, and they also promote the organisation of new societies where such would seem to be needed. The Department use the services of the organisers of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the working of this scheme. I am forwarding to the hon. Member a copy of a circular issued by the Organisation Society, with the approval of the Department.

Irish Co-operative Banks.

MR. DILLON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give a Return showing the number of co-operative banks in each Parliamentary division in Ireland, the situation of each bank, the amount of capital in each bank and how it has been supplied, the present condition of each bank, the expenses of management, the total amount of loans issued during last year, and the amount now outstanding.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Department of Agriculture are not in possession of the information asked for, but it can for the most part be obtained through the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. The society would, however, require some time to tabulate the necessary particulars. Under The Friendly Societies Act, 1875, societies such as the banks referred to are required to send to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, before 1st June in each year, an audited statement of their receipts and expenditure in respect of the year ended the last day of the previous December. The Department understand that a Return for the year 1906 in regard to all these banks could not be completed until after 1st June next. There would be some difficulty in preparing the Return by Parliamentary divisions, and the Department would, therefore, propose that it should be prepared by counties, which would probably meet the object which the hon. Member has in view.

Gortnahoe Evicted Tenants.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the estate of Henry Oliver Langley, at Longfordpass, Gortnahoe, county Tipperary, has been sold to the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, what steps, if any, have been taken to reinstate Michael Morriss and Edward Kealy, two evicted tenants on this estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) This estate has not been sold to the Estates Commissioners, but they are in communication with the owner with a view to purchasing it. M. Morris has applied for reinstatement, and the Commissioners have his application under consideration. No application has been received from E. Kealy.

Scott and Cleaver Estate, Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether arrangements have been made by the Estates Commissioners to purchase the Scott and Cleaver estate, in the county Roscommon; how long is it since the offer was made;

whether the estate has yet been inspected, and, if so, what was the result.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that proceedings for the direct sale of this estate by the owners to the tenants were instituted before them in June, 1905. The estate has not yet been inspected, but will be inspected as soon as its turn is reached.

Irish School Building Grants.

MR. DILLON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how much of the £35,000 voted last year for school building grants has been actually issued; and, if it has not been all issued, how the fact can be accounted for that the amount voted by the House of Commons was not issued when the need for it was admittedly extreme.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Of the amount voted for school building grants for the current year the sum of £12,700 has been issued. The reason why the full amount of the Vote has not been issued is that the plans and the scale of grants were under discussion.

MR. DILLON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether each individual application for a grant for building or repairing an Irish schoolhouse comes before the Treasury in London, and whether the Treasury adjudicate on each application; and, if so, whether it is proposed to continue this system.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It is not the practice to submit each individual application to the Treasury, but during the recent suspension of grants it was necessary to submit some urgent cases individually for approval. The continuance of this exceptional procedure is not contemplated.

Mount Pleasant Grazing Farm, Westport.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Patrick Joyce, of Hazelbrook, near Westport, county Mayo, has given over to his brother 250 acres of a grazing farm called Mount Pleasant, also near Westport, and which he has been grazing as an eleven months tenant; is he aware that there are several small landholders in the vicinity who have been expecting an enlargement of their holdings by the distribution of this farm, consisting altogether of 600 acres, amongst them; had Mr. Patrick Joyce any authority to hand over any portion of this farm to his brother; and will he see that it is divided amongst the uneconomic landholders in the neighbourhood.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are not aware that Mr. Patrick Joyce has parted with any portion of his lands at Mount Pleasant to his brother. Mr. Patrick Joyce was not an eleven months tenant, but held the lands under lease from Lord Clanmorris. He has surrendered 143 acres of his land for division among the tenants of uneconomic holdings.

Loughrea Irish Interpreter.

MR. GWYNN (Galway): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the fact that the post of Irish interpreter for the Loughrea division of county Galway has been vacant since October last, owing to the fact that the salary of £10 offered is insufficient even to defray the necessary expenses of attendance at the quarter sessions in four towns, and that, under the Local Government Act, no allowance for expenses can be made by the sheriff or county council; and if he will take steps to remove this difficulty, which hampers the administration of justice for native Irish speakers of the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) My attention has been called to this matter. Under the existing law the annual amount which the county council may provide for the payment of an interpreter at quarter sessions is limited to £30. In the case of county Galway this amount is divisible into three sums of £10, payable in respect of different divisions of the county, and I am informed that some difficulty exists in obtaining an interpreter at this rate in one part of the county. I cannot undertake to introduce special legislation with the object of enabling the county council to increase the payments to interpreters, but the matter will receive consideration in the event of legislation being introduced to amend the Local Government Acts.

Irish Department of Agriculture.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the total amount voted to the Department of Agriculture since its establishment, and the rate per head of the present population of Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The hon. Member will find the amounts annually voted to the Department of Agriculture in the Estimates for the years since the Department was created. The estimated present population of Ireland will be given in reply to a Question of which the hon. Member has given notice.

Cost of Irish Departments.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the total cost in the last or preceding financial year of the Departments of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Chief Secretary for Ireland; also the total cost under each of the following heads: Judiciary, Police, Local Government Board, Education; and the rate per head of the population in each of the five Departments, together with the total cost of Civil Government in Ireland, with the rate per head of the population.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1905–6, from which he will be able to ascertain the expenditure from voted moneys on the services mentioned.

Irish Petty Session Courts—Good Friday Sittings.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that instructions have been given to all petty sessions clerks in Ireland that courts are to be held on Christmas Days and Good Fridays when the day fixed for petty sessions falls on these holidays; whether it is proposed to hold a petty sessions court in Derrygonnelly, county Fermanagh, on Friday next; whether arrangements have been made for the attendance of justices on that day so as to avoid inconvenience to the public who have been invited to attend; and if he will give instructions that these holidays are to be observed in petty sessions courts as in all other courts in the Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that no instructions have been sent to petty sessions clerks generally as to the holding of petty sessions courts on Christmas Day and Good Friday. In reply to a query addressed to the registrar of petty sessions clerks the petty sessions clerk at Derrygonnelly has been informed that it is not illegal to hold a petty sessions court on Good Friday, and that, if no magistrate should attend, the court should be adjourned according to statute.

Magheragallon Pier.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board has received a petition from the fishermen of the district asking for the improvement of the pier at Magheragallon, county Donegal; and whether, in view of the importance of this place as a fishing centre, the Board will take steps to improve the harbour.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Congested Districts Board have not received the petition referred to.

Jamaica School Buildings.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has now received information as to the condition of school buildings and teachers' dwellings in Jamaica, as affected by the recent earthquake; what steps the Government have taken to enable the schools to be re-opened; and whether notices have been served upon teachers that their pay was to be stopped in cases where it had not been practicable to reopen the schools, and in other cases for school inspections to go on though the conditions relating to the schools owing to the earthquake made that unwise and in some cases impracticable.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State has not yet received the information for which he has asked the Governor of Jamaica, as promised in the reply made by the Under-Secretary of State to the hon. Member of the 6th instant.†

Valuation Office Dublin Clerks.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if the Treasury have considered the memorials forwarded to them on behalf of certain clerks in the Valuation Office, Dublin, and in the office of the Registrar of Titles, Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Commissioner of Valuation, Ireland, was informed in December and January last that the Treasury was not prepared to accede to the petitions of the various clerks in his department. I have received no further memorial from these officers. As regards the clerks in the office of the Registrar of Deeds I would refer the hon. Baronet to the written reply which I gave on this subject on the 20th instant.‡

Irish Historical Manuscripts.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury what collections of Irish historical manuscripts are now in course of publication by the Record and Historical Manuscripts Commissions, and when is it expected that they will be published, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that the only Irish manuscripts now engaging the staff of the Historical Manuscripts Commission are those of the Marquess of Ormonde, of which the fourth volume was published last year and the fifth is now at press and will be published in the course of the current year. The Record Commission has for long ceased to exist, but the Public Record Office continue to issue calenders of State Papers relating to Ireland.

Irish Contributions to Imperial Revenue.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state what amount towards the Imperial taxation was drawn from Ireland in the year the Financial Relations Commission was sitting; what was the population of Ireland at that period; what amount Ireland contributed last year towards Imperial taxation; and what was the estimated population of Ireland last year.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) In the year 1895–6 the tax revenue contributed by Ireland was calculated at £7,075,000. The estimated population of Ireland on the 30th June, 1895, was 4,560,000. In 1905–6 Ireland's contribution to tax revenue was calculated at £8,254,000, the estimated population on the 30th June, 1905, being 4,392,000. I may perhaps add that the cost of the Irish services defrayed out of Imperial funds was in 1895–6 £5,939,000, and in 1905–6 £7,635,500.

Naval Prizes.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, why the prizes to petty officers, seamen, and boys have been reduced from £8,880 in 1906–7 to £8,300 in 1907–8; and whether he can state why the table giving the distribution of this grant for proficiency in different weapons has been omitted from the new Navy Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The amount provided for prizes for good shooting in the 1907–8 Estimates, although showing a reduction of £580 on the estimate as compared with the prior year, is in fact based on the anticipation of more money being expended for these prizes during the next financial year, the payments actually made in recent years having fallen short of the provision by considerably more than that sum. The table referred to has been omitted on the ground that its inclusion in the printed Estimates had not been found to serve any useful purpose.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 778–9.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 830–1

Simon's Bay Dockyard.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty why the estimated cost of the Simon's Bay dockyard extension has been reduced by upwards of £300,000.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) In view of the present state of this work it was considered that the sum reserved for contingencies and unforeseen difficulties in construction might be reduced. Some deductions have also been made in the buildings originally proposed.

"Britannia" Royal Naval College.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what was the original estimate of the cost of seamen's barracks in connection with the "Britannia" Royal Naval College; and why it has been decided to omit them from the scheme of 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The original estimate of cost of the barracks was £15,000. The work has been deferred pending further consideration, it being less urgent than certain other works.

Ireland's Contribution to Upkeep of the Navy.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the total amount contributed by Ireland in the last financial year to the upkeep of the Navy, and the total value of the Navy contracts placed in Ireland by the Admiralty Office during the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The first part of the Question is a matter for my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. As regards the second part, the preparation of any statement would involve great clerical labour, and the result would be necessarily incomplete and to some extent misleading.

Power to remove Naval Officers.

MR. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, how many signatures are required to make an order of the Admiralty executive in reference to the removal of an officer from the command of his fleet, ship, or barracks, or whether this power can be exercised by the First Lord of the Admiralty without the concurrence of the Sea Lords forming the Board of Admiralty; and whether he can state in what respects the practice is a variation, and under what patent or Order in Council, from that pursued in April, 1795, when the decision of Lord Spencer to supersede Admiral Lord Hood in the command of the Mediterranean Fleet could not be carried into effect until he obtained the signatures of two of the Sea Lords.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Board of Admiralty are not prepared to discuss their present methods of administration of Admiralty business and the methods practised by their predecessors in 1795. The hon. Member may rest assured that provisions contained in the letters patent under which the Lords Commissioners exercise their authority are duly observed.

Naval Casualties.

CAPTAIN HERVEY (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he has any official information showing that the number of collisions and groundings of His Majesty's ships in the years 1905–6 were the result of the employment of officers being so restricted in consequence of the redistribution of the fleet; and if he will state the number of collisions and groundings in 1905–6, and in previous years.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The redistribution of the fleet has not restricted the employment of officers. The number of His Majesty's ships exercised at sea in the years 1905, excluding manœuvres, and 1906, including manœuvres, was greater than in previous years. The number of groundings has steadily decreased since 1882, as shown by the attached table. A bare statement of the number of collisions would be misleading, as some were not due to any want of care on the part of the officers in charge of His Majesty's ships.

Year.	Number of Ships in Commission.		Total Number of Groundings.	Percentage of Groundings to Number of Ships.	
	Excluding Manœuvres.	Including Manœuvres.		Excluding Manœuvres.	Including Manœuvres.
1882 - -	210	—	44	21·0	—
1883 - -	208	—	41	19·7	—
1884 - -	210	—	49	23·3	—
1885 - -	217	—	41	18·9	—
1886 - -	221	—	40	18·1	—
1887 - -	222	265	47	21·2	17·7
1888 - -	228	257	35	15·4	13·6
1889 - -	232	280	34	14·7	12·1
1890 - -	235	250	28	11·9	11·2
1891 - -	247	285	35	14·2	12·3
1892 - -	250	290	31	12·4	10·7
1893 - -	245	280	29	11·8	10·4
1894 - -	230	270	27	11·7	10·0
1895 - -	269	325	20	7·4	6·2
1896 - -	271	318	32	11·8	10·1
1897 - -	286	325	18	6·3	5·5
1898 - -	284	329	29	10·2	8·8
1899 - -	292	333	26	8·9	7·8
1900 - -	328	346	35	10·7	10·1
1901 - -	332	—	36	10·8	—
1902 - -	337	—	36	10·7	—
1903 - -	332	376	29	8·7	7·7
1904 - -	308	370	30	9·7	8·9
1905 - -	354	—	41	11·5	—
1906 - -	300 Including ships in commission in reserve.	386	28	9·3	8·2

Coals to Russian ships at Portsmouth.

Mr. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the dockyard authorities at Portsmouth are supplying coals to the Russian ships there, although such coals can be obtained from private firms in the locality at current prices; and whether there are any, and, if so, what, instructions given to the Royal Dockyards in reference to the supply of coals under the circumstances before detailed.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The coals were supplied from the Admiralty stock as a matter of international courtesy at the request of the Russian Embassy and under instructions from the Admiralty. The instructions in force at the Royal Dockyards are to the effect that supplies similar to that now in question are not to be made except on prior Admiralty authority.

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he has now inquired into the Report that rewards have been offered, with the knowledge of the Scottish Office, to Moray Firth line fishermen for information which may lead to conviction of any trawlers within the prohibited waters of the North Sea, now enclosed by a by-law within Moray Firth; and will he say whether masters of trawlers have been convicted on mere suspicion of the evidence given by prejudiced men, whilst trawlers are now afraid to enter the Moray Firth for shelter in stress of weather, in accordance with the custom in the territorial waters of other maritime nations adjoining the North Sea.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I have nothing to add to the Answer given to my hon. friend on the 19th instant†.

Grocers' Spirit Sales.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the amount of spirits sold during the year ending 31st March, 1906, by grocers holding spirit licences in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I find on inquiry of the Board of Inland Revenue that this information does not exist. The amount of spirits sold by grocers holding spirit licences is not distinguished in the Board's Annual Reports, which only give the total amounts of spirits consumed.

Baronets.

Sir F. BANBURY (City of London): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into matters affecting the degree of baronet have presented their Report; and, if so, whether the Report will be laid before Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Yes, Sir; this Committee have presented their Report, and it will shortly be laid before Parliament.

Tinplates for Canada.

Mr. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what were the imports of tin-plates into Canada from the United States during the years 1903–6, inclusive.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The total quantities of tinplates and sheets imported into Canada from the United States, during the four years ended 30th June, 1906, were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Tons.
1903 - - -	1,456
1904 - - -	3,760
1905 - - -	8,641
1906 - - -	11,372

Tests for Colour Blindness.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has any official information showing that the tests for colour blindness, adopted by the Board of Trade, are efficient.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I can only say that the colour tests for the mercantile marine were adopted on the advice of a Committee of the Royal Society of the highest eminence, and that the Board of Trade have no reason to doubt their efficiency.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi, 673.

Abbeyfeale Railway Accommodation.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can say whether he has received a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Town Tenants' Association of Abbeyfeale, protesting against the destruction of the trade and general interests of the town by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company through the insufficiency of loading and unloading accommodation at the railway premises there and the want of a proper staff of men; and if he can say what action he intends to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have received a copy of the resolution in question and are communicating with the railway company in the matter.

Board of Agriculture Finance.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can state the total amount voted by Parliament to the Board from 1900 inclusive, and the rate per head of the population of Great Britain.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The aggregate amount voted by Parliament for the service of the Board for the seven years from 1900–1901 to 1906–7, inclusive, was £766,403, a sum which is equivalent to 4·9d. per head of the population as enumerated at the Census of 1901. But, as I stated in reply to my hon. friend the Member for the Droitwich Division on the 18th instant, there are other charges both on the Exchequer and the Local Taxation Account which should be taken into consideration in estimating the total expenditure incurred by the Board for the benefit of the agricultural and fishery industries.

Sewage Disposal.

SIR F. BANBURY: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill dealing with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The matter is under consideration, but I cannot make any announcement with regard to it at the present moment.

House of Commons Postal Staff.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has received any recommendation as to the payment for prolonged and extra duties of the postal and telegraph staff in the Houses of Parliament; and if he is prepared to make any arrangement to recompense these officials for their duties on the occasion of all-night sittings or extra hours.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The attendance of the staff employed at the House of Commons post office is necessarily somewhat irregular, but on the average the regular staff is probably not called upon to work more than forty-eight hours a week. Special privileges are accorded to them in the shape of partial exemption from duty on Saturdays and an extended annual leave, on the understanding that no special payment will usually be made on the occasion of specially long sittings. I may mention that I sanctioned a special addition to the annual leave of the post office staff in consideration of last year's autumn session.

Post Office and Employers' Insurance.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Postmaster-General for how long a period Lord Farrar's Departmental Committee will continue to take evidence on employers' insurance through the Post Office Savings Banks in respect of workmen's compensation.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The Committee are taking evidence, and I am unable to say when they will report.

Newspaper Misrepresentations.

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): To ask Mr. Attorney-General if his attention has been directed to a statement to the effect that a new tax amounting to £3,000,000 will be placed upon householders under the new employers' liability provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act; that such statement purported to be made upon the authority of a gentleman who has since stated that the sum he named was £150,000, and not £3,000,000; and whether he proposes to initiate legislation by which a newspaper can be punished for persisting in a mis-statement which misrepresents and disparages the legislation of Parliament.

(*Answered by Sir Lawson Walton.*) The newspaper referred to has published an explanation. The case is not one calling, in my opinion, for an amendment of the law.

Kent Education Committee.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Kent Education Committee are trying to enforce that only those should be accepted as pupil teachers who have had experience in secondary schools; that at the only school of this type in Chatham and Gillingham the fees are so high as to practically exclude the children of the artisan and labouring classes; and that the local education committee at Gillingham has passed a resolution expressing its disapproval of these charges; and whether he proposes to take any, and, if any, what, action in the matter.

(*Anwered by Mr. McKenna.*) As the Question only appeared this morning upon the Paper there has not been time for me to investigate the circumstances. But I will cause inquiry to be made and will see whether any improper hindrances are put in the way of the children referred to who are desirous and fit to enter the teaching profession.

Militia Officers' Full Dress.

COLONEL SANDYS (Lancashire, Bootle): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, if incorporated in the proposed Territorial Army, the privilege now accorded specially to the Militia of wearing gold lace on their uniform will be retained by them; and, if so, whether this privilege is also to be given to the other units of the new force.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) There is no intention of interfering with the full-dress uniform now worn by officers of the auxiliary forces.

Irish Contribution to Army Cost.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the total amount of Ireland's contribution towards the Army in the last financial year; and the total value of the Army contracts placed in Ireland by the War Office during the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The materials at my immediate disposal do not enable me to give the hon. Member the information he requires. The compilation of the statistics in regard to the contracts would involve great time and labour.

War Office Surveyors.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the disparity existing between the salaries of the surveyors and assistant surveyors of the staff for engineer services and those of professional civil servants holding similar appointments in other departments of the public service; and whether he intends to do anything to improve the position of the staff for engineer services.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The matters alluded to are still under consideration.

Volunteer Officers' Liabilities.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can indicate the extent and nature of liabilities incurred by officers of Volunteer corps in respect of their regiments other than those connected with the cost of drill halls and ranges.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The liabilities in question consist of debts incurred in the general administration of the corps, including clothing, etc. From Returns rendered up to 31st March, 1906, the net debtor balance of the Volunteer Force taken as a whole amounted to £278,000, and there were private funds in hand amounting to £73,000. The Capitation Grant paid on 1st April, 1906, amounted to £596,000.

Foreign Trawlers off the South Coast.

MR. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes): To ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the distress among the fishermen of Plymouth and the neighbouring coast, he is able to state before the Easter Recess whether any determination has been come to as to the appointment of a

Committee of investigation into the action of foreign trawlers, suggested a fortnight since by the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The whole question of the marine police is under the consideration of the Government. The "Argus," a very efficient vessel, fitted with search lights, has been sent to the Devon and Cornwall fishery ground, whilst one of the regular vessels told off for that duty is under repair, and she will be retained there for the present.

Women on Local Bodies.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton): To ask the Prime Minister whether he can say when he proposes to introduce the Bill which would enable women to be elected to serve on local bodies.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I cannot yet fix a date for the introduction of this Bill.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Coal Storage Expenditure.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty for what reason and on what items the estimated expenditure, under the statute of 1905, on coaling facilities and fuel storage has been reduced by £260,000.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): The reductions are due to a careful revision of the items in the light of present naval requirements. The hon. Gentleman will understand it was impossible in 1905 to forecast with entire accuracy the needs of 1907.

Admiralty Work at the Royal Arsenal.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the one-third proportion of work done for the War Office being done in the Government workshops also applies to the Admiralty; and, if so, will he say what proportion and amount of Admiralty work is being placed in the Royal Arsenal for the ensuing year.

MR. LAMBERT: My hon. friend will be glad to know that considerably more than one-third of the guns required for the year will be allotted to the Royal Arsenal.

Rosyth.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many men are now employed at Rosyth; and what is the aggregate of their weekly wages.

MR. LAMBERT: I assume the hon. Member refers only to workmen. There are nine employed directly by the Admiralty, the aggregate wages being £11 10s. This does not include engineering staff and men employed by a contractor in sinking an experimental cylinder.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty on what date the preliminary works at Rosyth, for which the estimated cost as revised was £165,000, were completed.

MR. LAMBERT: The preliminary works are not yet complete.

Bentley Motor Train Fatality.

MR. MARNHAM (Surrey, Chertsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a serious, and afterwards fatal, accident to the driver of a London and South Western Railway motor train near Bentley station on the 28th February, when the injured man was taken by train to Bordon camp, with a view to his receiving the assistance of the military doctor there; whether he is aware that the latter refused to attend to the man; whether there are any restrictions in the Army Regulations which prevent military doctors from attending to civilian casualties such as the one referred to; and, if so, will he take steps to have such restrictions forthwith removed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): I have made inquiries into this matter. It appears that the military medical officer concerned was not asked to attend to the man. There are no restrictions placed on military medical officers against rendering immediate assistance in civil cases, nor to the admission into military hospitals of cases requiring surgical attendance, the result of serious accidents in the immediate vicinity.

Purchased Discharges for the Army.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, how many recruits purchased their discharge at a cost of £10 during each of the last five years.

MR. HALDANE: The figures for recruits claiming their discharge under Section 81, Army Act, are as follows:—Twelve months to 31st December, 1902, 933†; nine months to 30th September, 1903, 590; twelve months to 30th September, 1904, 766; twelve months to 30th September, 1905, 830; twelve months to 30th September, 1906, 868.

Royal Arsenal Workers.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, whether, in reference to the Comptroller General's recent Report on the Ordnance Factories, he is aware that discontent exists in the Royal Arsenal in regard to price-fixing for piece-work; whether married mechanics are taking, or have taken, as little as 14s. per week of forty-eight hours; and whether in some cases rate-fixers have doubled the prices originally put upon the job.

MR. HALDANE: It is not thought that any general discontent exists in regard to price-fixing for piece work in the Ordance Factories. There have no doubt been individual cases where men have complained that the prices fixed have been too narrow to allow of their securing their usual earnings, and where this is proved to be the case, correction, which may have been very material in some cases, has been made in favour of the workman. It is, however, now the practice not to reduce a rate when once fixed, and if it proves to be on the high side the workman gets the benefit. But when in certain cases, apart from sickness or short time, the rate has been found too low it has been altered with retrospective effect. In some cases rates have been as much as doubled. This was not, however, due to mistakes in fixing the original rates, but because certain exigencies in the shops had compelled the adoption of more laborious methods in certain instances.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that there are many men in the Royal Arsenal who, although attending the Arsenal each day, are frequently kept hours without work being given them; whether he is aware that, even when work is given, the weekly earnings are on the average much below time wages; and whether he can guarantee that men who are kept on the books shall have at least guaranteed to them their wages at day rates.

MR. HALDANE: Many men suspended on account of slackness of work attend at the Arsenal each day to ascertain if work can be found for them. If preferred the men can be discharged, but while suspended they cannot be paid at day rates nor can any guarantee of work be given, though every endeavour will be made to find work for such men as are kept on the books.

MR. CROOKS: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that to-night a great number of men will be turned out of the Arsenal until Monday week without pay?

[No Answer was returned.]

Lord Esher and the War Office.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Lord Esher is constantly or frequently in attendance at the War Office; and, if so, what functions he there performs.

MR. HALDANE: I am at a loss to understand what the hon. Member means by the series of Questions he is addressing about Lord Esher. If he has a grievance against him it would be better that he should state it openly, when it may be possible for me to investigate Lord Esher's movements and doings to his satisfaction.

MR. BOWLES: Arising out of that Answer, may I say that I have not the slightest personal feeling against Lord Esher, and that my Question was not inspired by any feeling of the kind? I ask whether Lord Esher is constantly or frequently in attendance at the War Office; and, if so, what functions Lord Esher performs there; can the right hon. Gentleman answer that Question?

---

†Discharges by purchase suspended during South African War from October 1899 to May 1902.

[No further reply was given.]

Cost of Soldiers' Uniforms.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the estimated cost of supplying 300,000 men of the territorial force with one suit of clothes (service dress) for each man enrolled, together with boots, head dress, overcoat, etc.

MR. HALDANE: The cost of service dress for infantry, including great coat, boots, helmet, cap and badge, and putties, amounts to an average annual sum of 10s. 5d. per man, or about £156,000 a year for 300,000 men. The additional cost of equipment is about 1s. per man.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: Can the right hon. Gentleman state the total cost?

MR. HALDANE: I should like notice of that.

Irish Recruits.

MR. STARKEY (Nottinghamshire, Newark): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended that recruits for the special contingent shall be enlisted in Ireland concurrently with the enlistment of recruits for the Irish Militia; and, if not, whether any special provision will be made for strengthening the reserve of regiments having their depots in Ireland.

MR. HALDANE: It is the intention that all recruits in Ireland, other than those for the Regular Army, shall be enlisted under the provisions of Part III. of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill. Enlistment for the third or training battalions, and for other battalions in Ireland will be carried on concurrently.

Indian Bird Protection.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India proposes to pass a measure for checking the destruction of birds in that country, the administrative order in force prohibiting the export of birds' feathers being insufficient to meet the case, inasmuch as it is inoperative at ports in native states and foreign possessions, and is subject at any time to be revised or cancelled.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): I am not aware that legislation is contemplated. An Act, if passed, would equally be inoperative in native states and would of course be open to repeal.

Indian Crops—Damage by Wild Animals.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the testimony afforded by Mr. Morison, member of the Council of India, to the damage done to crops of Indian cultivators by wild animals, which are the natural prey of other larger beasts, for the indiscriminate destruction of which the Indian Government offers rewards; and whether, in the interests of the cultivators, he will invite the Government of India to revise its scale of rewards.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: It is unfortunately true that the crops of Indian cultivators are damaged by wild animals; but, as I have said before, I am not prepared on that account to take the course suggested by the hon. Member.

Indian Defence Expenditure.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state what sum should be added in respect of expenditure on strategic railways to that of £20,599,500, in order to ascertain the defence expenditure of India in the year 1906–7, and what is the corresponding Estimate to be added to the Estimate for military expenditure in the Budget for 1907–8; also what has been and is to be the charge for the extension of the line from Jamrud to the point on the Kabul River known as Mile 300.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: According to the latest information in my possession, the expenditure on strategic railways was £220,000 in 1906–7, and the Estimate for 1907–8 is £133,000. The estimated cost of the Kabul River Railway up to Mile 300 is £337,000, of which £225,000 has already been spent.

Abazai Garrison.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state the composition of the force to be stationed at Abazai or its neighbourhood.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Abazai is a village with a small fort twenty-four miles north of Peshawar City. Its nominal garrison is a company of native infantry and fifty cavalry. The last returns show seventy-three infantry and fifty-one cavalry present.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Is there any immediate intention of putting a larger force there?

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Not so far as I am aware at present.

Indo-Chinese Railway Survey Expenditure.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what was the nett total cost of the survey executed in 1898–9 from the proposed crossing of the Myitnge River near Lashio, *viâ* Hsinwi and Möng La, to the Salwen River on the route of the Mandalay-Kunlon Ferry line.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I am unable to give the information asked for by the hon. Member; but I will make inquiries.

MR. LEA: Can the hon. Gentleman say when he will be in possession of the information?

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: No, Sir.

Trinidad Industries and Wages.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the sugar and cocoa planters of Trinidad applied for 2,314 immigrants for the year 1907–8, and that the Legislative Council granted only 1,800; that the number of such immigrants now number 13,000 out of a population of 330,000; that, as a result of the annual introduction of such a number of immigrants, wages have been reduced during recent years, particularly on the cocoa estates, where wages, some years ago, were sixty cents per day as against thirty-five cents per day at the present time, the result being that a number of the native population are unemployed and in poor circumstances; and, seeing that there is no lack of labour in the Colony at the present time and in view of all these circumstances, will he consider the desirability of putting a check on the importation of such immigrants.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale, for Mr. CHURCHILL): The Secretary of State is aware of the reduction in the number of Indian immigrants to be introduced into Trinidad during the coming season. The returns of June, 1906, give the number of indentured immigrants in the Colony as 9,924, and while about 3,000 have since been introduced, the indentures of some 2,400 introduced in 1902 have expired. The present number may therefore be assumed to be about 10,500. The Special Committee recently appointed by the Governor to consider the labour question in Trinidad reported that no general reduction in wages had taken place; any reduction that may recently have occurred on cocoa estates is doubtless due to the failure of the crop. The Secretary of State sees no reason at present for further limiting the importation of immigrants.

MR. SUMMERBELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that large numbers of natives are leaving the Colony now in order to seek work elsewhere?

MR. HARCOURT: I am not acquainted with the fact.

Trinidad Immigrants.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the cost per head of immigrants introduced into the Island of Trinidad is about £27 10s., towards which employers only contribute £5, the remaining £22 10s. being made up by one-third from general revenue, and two-thirds from an export tax on produce, or in other words an annual charge to the Colony of some £20,000; and, if so, whether he will recommend that the deficit anticipated in the Estimates of the Colony should be met by the saving of this annual expenditure in preference to the suggested increase in the local tariffs.

MR. HARCOURT: The cost of indentured immigration varies; in the last completed financial year it was about £24 per head. Employers pay an indenture fee of £5 per head and contribute to the Immigration Fund by the payment of export duties. From the Immigration Fund two-thirds of the total cost of immigration is paid; the other third, amounting to some £20,000, is paid from general revenue. As the Under-Secretary of State stated in his reply to the hon. Member on the 27th ultimo, the Secretary of State does not propose that this system should be changed.

Trinidad Breaches of Civil Contracts.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether nearly 50 per cent. of those committed to prison in the Island of Trinidad were for breaches of civil contracts, and that such breaches are greatly due to the immigrants not being paid anything approaching the minimum wage of 5s. 2½d. per week promised; and, if so, what action he is prepared to take in the matter.

MR. HARCOURT: The number of persons committed to prison in Trinidad during the year 1905–6 for breaches of the Immigration Ordinanse was about 35 per cent. of the total number of committals. This number includes persons committed for other breaches of the Ordinance besides breaches of indenture. The Governor of Trinidad recently made a careful investigation into the causes leading to this number of convictions, and came to the conclusion that the frequency of desertions was not due to the insufficiency of wages on estates, but rather to the facilities with which the indentured immigrants could obtain other employment or promises of employment both in the Colony and in the neighbouring country of Venezuela. The Secretary of State sees no reason for any further action in the matter.

Trinidad Customs Commission.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is yet in a position to give the names of the Commission appointed by the Trinidad Government to revise the local Customs tariff; whether a representative of the working class has been appointed a member of the Commission; and whether the proceedings of the Commission will be made public.

MR. HARCOURT: I regret that I am unable to give the hon. Member the information he desires, but the Secretary of State has telegraphed to the Governor on the subject.

MR. SUMMERBELL: Is it not strange that information which appeared in the Press weeks ago cannot be got for the Government yet?

[No Answer was returned.]

Kowloon and Canton Railway.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies at what price, delivered at Kowloon, including insurance and freight, sleepers have been supplied for the British Government section of the Kowloon to Canton Railway; whether the sleepers, according to the contract, had to be hand-hewn or sawed; whether a Government certificate of inspection from the place of export accompanied the shipment; whether he is aware that the Hong-Kong agents of the firm supplying these sleepers are also the agents of the British Chinese Corporation, Limited; whether tenders for the supply of these sleepers were called for, and, if so, when and where they were advertised; and, more particularly, whether the Crown Agents gave any information to the Agents-General of the Australian States that the tenders were being asked for these sleepers.

MR. HARCOURT: I understand that a contract has been given locally by the resident engineer for certain sleepers, but the matter was not referred to the Crown Agents or the Colonial Office, and the Secretary of State has at present no official information on the subject.

St. Helena—Unemployment.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secetary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that it is likely that the proposed flax industry in St. Helena will still leave many of the inhabitants unemployed, he will take any further steps to alleviate the distress of the inhabitants of that island, who have practically lost their livelihood by the action of the Government in removing the troops hitherto quartered there.

MR. HARCOURT: The Secretary of State is considering whether any further measures can be taken in the direction of assisted emigration.

Franco-Siamese Treaty.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, during the negotiations which preceded the Treaty between Siam and France which has just been concluded, His Majesty's Government were consulted; whether that Treaty permits any extension of French influence or interests on the right bank of the Mekong towards the British political frontier; and whether the Treaty gives any preference to French merchandise passing into Siam over merchandise coming from the British Shan States.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): I must ask the hon. Member to wait till the terms of the Treaty are made public before I can answer Questions about it.

Municipal Borrowing in the United States.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will lay upon the Table a Return showing the specified limits put by law upon municipal borrowing in the different States of the United States.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I will consult with the Board of Trade as to whether such a Return would be of value, and will inquire whether it would easily be obtained.

SIR GILBERT PARKER was understood to ask what Department was responsible for this matter.

SIR EDWARD GREY said it was usual to consult all Departments concerned before making a promise to grant a Return, as a promise might be made and it might be found subsequently very difficult to obtain the facts asked for.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman simultaneously grant a Return showing the limits put upon such expenditure in other countries?

SIR EDWARD GREY: This supplementary Question shows the danger of making promises.

Kidnapping a British Subject at Salonika.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any official information with regard to the alleged kidnapping of a British subject, Mr. Robert Abbot, from his father's garden, in the immediate vicinity of the British Consulate at Salonika on Thursday the 21st instant, and, if so, whether he intends to take any action in the matter.

SIR EDWARD GREY: A telegram has been received from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject, and the necessary steps are being taken by the Grand Vizier and the local authorities at Salonika in concert with His Majesty's Consul-General.

Consulates in Persia.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that the Russian Consulates in Persia have been strengthened, he will consider the advisability of strengthening the British Consulates so as to bring them, at least, on a par with the Russian Consulates, seeing the moral effect that a prompt display of strength has with the Asiatic peoples.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government see no reason to modify the opinion expressed in my Answer to the Question asked on the 22nd instant by the hon. Member for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire.† Recent changes are very small, and do not involve a moral effect.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 849.

Morocco Disturbances.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any official information as to the attack on the British Consulate by the rabble in Morocco, on or about Tuesday, the 19th instant, which was repelled only by the inmates using firearms; and what steps does he intend to take to prevent the recurrence of such an outrage.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have not yet received particulars of the occurrences referred to. According to the latest information, all Europeans at Marakesh were safe and well on the 23rd, and I have no reason to believe that they are in any danger at present. His Majesty's Government will carefully watch events, and act as the circumstances seem to require.

Assault on British Subjects at Amoy.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Chinese Government adopted the suggestion of His Majesty's Minister at Peking to the effect that some compensation should, as an act of grace, be paid to Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie, who were assaulted near Amoy in June, 1906.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Chinese Government have been requested to pay compensation as an act of grace, and discussion as to the amount is understood to be now proceeding between His Majesty's Consul at Amoy and the local Chinese authorities.

Whisky.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Inland Revenue officials do not discriminate in their accounts between pot-still and patent-still whisky, the distilleries being in almost all cases distinct; and whether, in view of the importance to the wholesale spirit trade in this country that this information should be given to the public, he can state the quantities of pot-still and patent-still whiskies produced in England, Ireland, and Scotland, in the years 1886, 1897, and 1906 respectively; and, if it is impossible to furnish this information for the past, will he issue orders for the facts to be ascertained and circulated in future.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): No discrimination is at present made between pot-still and patent-still spirit, and consequently no departmental records exist from which a Return of the kind named could be made for past years. If legislative authority were given, it would be possible for the Department to keep a record in future of the quantities of spirit distilled by pot-stills and patent-stills respectively. But such a record would afford no evidence of the relative quantities used for potable and other purposes respectively, still less of the relative quantities used for a particular spirit, such as whisky, and other potable spirits. For the total product of patent-stills is applied only partly to purposes of "drinking" spirits, and the distribution of such part, as is so applied, between the several classes of potable spirits, gin, whisky, compounds, etc., cannot be determined.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman inform us which is the least injurious kind of whisky?

MR. ASQUITH: I have no information as to that.

Stamp Duties.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will take into consideration the amount of revenue that would accrue to his Department each year by a 1 per cent tax upon the Stock Exchange transactions; and whether he will consider the justice of this proposal.

MR. ASQUITH: I will take care not to lose sight of the possibility of a readjustment of the Stamp Duties in all their aspects.

Inspectors of Vivisection.

MR. SMEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are the salaries paid to the English inspectors of vivisection, Mr. Thane and Sir James Russell; whether out of 2,506 operation experiments made last year, only fifteen were witnessed by the senior inspector; whether the Home Office grants vivisection licences on the recommendation of the Research Association; and whether this association exists for the protection and promotion of vivisection.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): The remuneration of the inspector under the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, is 500 guineas, and that of the assistant inspector 350 guineas. The number of operation experiments witnessed by Mr. Thane in 1905 was fifteen; the number was smaller than usual in consequence of the inspector being absent on sick leave for some weeks. Among the objects of the Association for the Advancement of Medicine by Research are the protection of the interests of licensees and the publication of literature on the importance of research. Applications for licences and new certificates are sent to the association for observations; but the Secretary of State forms his own opinion in each case, after considering the reports of his own expert advisers, and the responsibility rests with him.

Mr. SMEATON: Is not the salary of the Irish inspector £50 a year?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman must give notice of any Question involving figures.

Devon Constabulary.

Mr. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that four retired military officers are at present holding the rank of superintendent in the Devonshire Constabulary, one of whom has just been appointed chief constable of the county; and, if so, whether he intends to take any steps to discourage such outside appointments.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I believe the hon. Member's statement is correct, though I have no official information in the matter. My approval is not required for the appointment of police superintendents; their selection is vested by law in the chief constables, who act in such matters under the general control of the Standing Joint Committee of the county. The matter is one entirely in their discretion, and I cannot undertake to interfere with them.

Licensing Compensation.

Mr. MACLEAN (Bath): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that holders of six-day licences, and also holders of licences with an early-closing condition attached, have to pay compensation charges under the Licensing Act of 1904 at the same rate as holders of seven-day and full-time licences; and will he take steps to grant to holders of six-day and early-closing licences remissions on compensation charges similar to those allowed on the excise licence.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I believe that the reading of the law stated in the first part of the Question is correct. If so the suggestion in the second part could not be carried out without legislation, and I can only say that I will note the point for consideration. This construction of the law has not been challenged since the Act came into operation, but it is open to any licence-holder affected, if he thinks the construction wrong, to take legal proceedings with a view to obtaining a decision.

The Convict Rayner.

*Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Home Secretary if his attention has been called to the case of Horace George Rayner, found guilty of murder at the Central Criminal Court, and whether he will take into consideration the unusual and peculiar circumstances and history of the case with a view to mitigation of the extreme penalty of the law.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Of course, in all these grave cases, circumstances such as those to which the hon. Member has alluded are taken into very serious consideration.

Railway Rates.

Mr. MONTAGU (Cambridgeshire, Chesterton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can now make a further pronouncement to the House as to the action he proposes taking to remove the disabilities placed on British trade and agriculture by the freight rules and rates of British railway companies.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I have already informed my hon. friend of the inquiries which I am causing to be made both at home and abroad with regard to the questions in which he is interested. These inquiries must necessarily take some time. I am therefore not yet in a position to make any announcement as to the action the Government propose to take on the subject of railway rates and rules. I should welcome any information which my hon. friend or anyone else interested in the question may be in a position to supply.

MR. MONTAGU: Have any inquiries yet been instituted?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I hope to be able to begin them very soon if I can get assistance from the Treasury.

Alien Bankrupts.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the number of bankruptcies reported to have taken place among aliens resident in this country, he will obtain from the Registrar General information as to the gross loss to creditors arising from such bankruptcies during the last five years; how many aliens have been made bankrupt in that time, and how many of these cases occurred in London; what is the average payment to creditors of native and alien bankrupts respectively; how many alien bankrupts have been found not to have kept books in the same period; what is the average proportion of assets to debts as between native and alien bankrupts; how many bankrupts have been Russian subjects; and how many have stated that, prior to their insolvency, they made their business over to their wives or other relatives.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: As I have already informed the hon. Member, no separate statistics for alien bankrupts have been kept by the Board of Trade, and I am unable therefore to furnish the information desired.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that Mr. Registrar Linklater only yesterday, in referring to the number of alien bankrupts appearing before him, said he could hardly believe he was presiding over a British Court. Was the right hon. Gentleman aware also that the facts and figures referred to in the Question were laid before the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration two or three years ago by the Registrar General, and could he not now have them brought up to date?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that of course his Department had nothing to do with the Registrar-General, but his attention had been called to the statement of the Registrar. He thought he might himself undertake to say that they should be brought to the notice of the Departmental Committee on the subject.

SIR W. EVANS-GORDON asked whether he might bring before this Committee any facts in his possession.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he would be glad if the hon. and gallant Member could see his way to give evidence.

Washburn Valley Afforestation Scheme.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether in the matter of men applying for work upon the Washburn Valley afforestation scheme under the Leeds Distress Committee, he has official information showing that 293 were offered employment, 139 accepted, 102 commenced work, and 56 threw it up soon after; what is the present number of men at work; whether, in view of the conditions of life in the country, he will ascertain whether 11s. is not too much to deduct from the men's wages of £1 per week for board and lodging; and whether, seeing that this experiment in afforestation is subsidised by the Local Government Board, he will give instructions that the men will be allowed the same privilege as those at Hollesley Bay of returning at stated periods to their homes free of railway fares.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The Answer as regards the figures referred to in the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The number of the registered unemployed men who are at present engaged on the work is fifty. I have made inquiry as to the sum charged for board and lodging, and I find that the distress committee are satisfied as to its reasonableness. The payment for board is, however, an optional one, as it is competent for the men, instead of making it, to provide and cook their own food, but I understand that none of them have adopted this alternative. I could not undertake to interfere as to the arrangements made for the men to visit their homes. I am informed that originally it was arranged that the men should return home only once a month, and that at the same time they should go in search of permanent employment, spending at least one day for that purpose. The majority, however, preferred to visit their homes at the end of each week.

Vaccination Results.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if Dr. Fletcher is paid for reporting on cases of illness following vaccination; if formerly similar reports were published; and on what ground of public policy such reports are kept secret notwithstanding the wish of the parents for publicity.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Dr. Fletcher is one of the medical inspectors of the Local Government Board, and is paid an annual salary for the discharge of his duties, which, like those of the other medical inspectors, include the occasional investigation of cases of illness alleged to be due to vaccination. Some of the reports of the inspectors were communicated to the Royal Commission on Vaccination, and the facts contained in certain of these reports were published by them; but since the final Report of the Commission, no further reports of the kind in question have been published. The reports of necessity often deal with the acts of family history of individuals, and must, I think, be treated as confidential.

MR. LUPTON: If there is no desire on the part of the families concerned to keep the reports private why should they not be published?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have no evidence that that is the view taken by the families affected.

MR. LUPTON: I say they do desire to have the reports published.

Sussex Vaccination Case.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that Mable Ellen Wenham, of 14, St. Nicholas Lane, Sussex, born 5th June, 1906, was vaccinated in September, 1906, by Dr. Burbidge, public vaccinator, and died on the 19th March, 1907; that fourteen days after vaccination sores broke out under the ear and elsewhere; that the child was treated firstly by Dr. Vallance and secondly by the dispensary doctor, then taken to a hospital at Brighton, and finally sent home incurable; and that the child was perfectly healthy before vaccination; and if, in consequence of the number of deaths following vaccination, he will stop the issue of vaccine matter until some stuff, free from danger, has been invented.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My attention has been called to the case referred to and I am making some inquiry with regard to it. I could not undertake to stop the issue of glycerinated calf lymph, and I may remind my hon. friend that it is not necessarily the case that because a death follows vaccination it is therefore due to it.

MR. LUPTON: Is it not the fact that the medical officers of the Local Government Board are now making investigations with a view to finding a less injurious stuff than that now used? Why not wait until they have discovered it before issuing any more of this lymph to the public?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have no such information as the hon. Member professes to have.

The Grant for the Unemployed.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can say if the £200,000 voted for provision of work for the unemployed has all been expended; if not, can he state the amount spent; and whether all the distress committees have been granted the sum they applied for and proved to his satisfaction they could utilise to advantage for the purpose the money was intended.

MR. JOHN BURNS: As regards England and Wales, the sum of £85,395 has actually been paid to the Central (Unemployed) Body and the distress committees; but some further payments, the precise amount of which I cannot at present state, will be made before the end of the week. I have made payments out of the grant in all cases in which the distress committee showed that there was exceptional need for assistance in meeting the cost of providing or contributing to the provision of temporary work, and a scheme of work was proposed of which I could approve. I should add that I agreed that a sum of £21,050 out of the grant should be allocated to Scotland and Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give any information as to the allocation of the amount set apart for Ireland?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have no precise information, but I believe the Chief Secretary has been doing his best to see that the amount allocated has been wisely spent.

Norwood Poor Law School.

MR. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state how many children in the Lambeth Poor Law school at Norwood have been, and are at present, affected by the recent outbreak at that school of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and whooping cough, respectively; and if any cases have as yet been fatal.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My hon. friend is, I think, under a misapprehension in this matter. I understand that, with the exception of six mild cases of whooping cough, five of whom are convalescent, there has been no recent outbreak of the diseases mentioned in the Question at the school, nor has there been any death from them. At present, there is not a single case of diphtheria or scarlet fever in the school.

Boarding-out of Pauper Children.

MR. L. HASLAM: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, in consideration of the fact that Poor Law guardians may make arrangements for the maintenance of Poor Law children in such institutions as Dr. Barnardo's Homes; and, seeing that the boarding out of children with foster parents is satisfactorily and more economically carried out by the managers of such institutions, will he consider the advisability of empowering, under regulations, Poor Law guardians to arrange for the boarding-out of Poor Law children under the auspices of such institutions.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I note the suggestion of my hon. friend. I may state, however, that it has previously been brought under the notice of the Local Government Board, but there are difficulties in its adoption, and they have not seen their way to giving effect to it.

MR. L. HASLAM: Considering that the expenditure of public money may be reduced by one half by these means, will the right hon. Gentleman further consider the matter?

MR. JOHN BURNS: Boarding-out is now tried, but the institutions in which the children are placed have to be certified.

Canadian Postage Rates.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the terms of the agreement made with Canada regarding the postage on newspapers and periodicals has been settled; and whether he can now state to the House of Commons the outlines of the arrangement which has been arrived at by the two countries.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): No arrangement has yet been made; but I cannot make any further statement in regard to this matter at present.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: Will it be in a short time?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I cannot say at present.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Will the matter come before the Colonial Conference?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I should say not. It is a question between the Government and Canada solely.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Will it be discussed with the representative of the Canadian Government on his visit to this country for the Conference?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am unable to say.

Post Office Insurance.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has taken or whether he is about to take the necessary steps to enable the general public to acquire insurance policies affecting life, fire, accident, and other forms of insurance, upon the security of his particular Department.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have appointed a Departmental Committee to consider "whether it is practicable, and if practicable, whether it is desirable, for the Post Office to provide facilities for the insurance of employers in respect of their liabilities under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, either generally or subject to limitations; and further to consider whether it is desirable that steps should be taken to encourage the use of the present life insurance system of the Post Office; and, if so, what steps." Lord Farrar is chairman of the Committee and the hon. Member for North Ayrshire is a member, and the Post Office, the Savings Bank, the Treasury, and the National Debt Commissioners are represented.

Merionethshire Schools.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the elementary schools recently erected in Merionethshire for children whose parents objected to the manner in which the denominational schools in the neighbourhood were conducted, and known as revolt schools, were erected with his concurrence and approval; and, if so, whether any of the sum provided in the Estimates for building elementary schools will be spent on the Merionethshire schools.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): So far as I am aware the schools referred to in the Question were not provided as public elementary schools, and in any case were provided previously to my appointment as President of the Board of Education. With regard to the last paragraph, I cannot add anything to my Answer to the hon. Member for the Oswestry Division on the 11th March†.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that these schools are recognised by the Department for the purposes of the grant?

MR. MCKENNA: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Teachers in Non-Provided Schools.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask President of the Board of Education whether the decision at which he has arrived, namely, that where managers of non-provided schools have in the exercise of their duty engaged teachers on such terms as they think satisfactory and the education authority has held aloof, the education authority has deprived itself of any solid ground of criticism, applies in cases where the managers have gone so far as to raise salaries in denominational schools to a level with those paid in provided schools in the same district; and to what extent this decision will interfere with the policy of discrimination between provided and non-provided schools adopted by the great majority of Welsh education authorities, and with their refusal to contribute from rates towards the maintenance of schools not under their full control.

MR. MCKENNA: The statements in my hon. friend's Question are not my decision but mistaken inferences which he has drawn from a decision I gave in the Swansea case. I cannot express any opinion as to what conclusions may be drawn from an erroneous hypothesis.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the words I have used in the first part of the Question are those used by the Attorney-General?

MR. MCKENNA: I am not aware of that.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxx., 1261–2.

House of Lords Buildings.

MR. MORTON (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether the new lift for the House of Lords buildings, which was to be provided at an estimated cost of £700, has been provided, and, if so, is it at all used; and is there a man in charge at 30s. per week, and has he anything to do.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale): The lift has been provided, but I believe it is not yet extensively used. There is an attendant who receives the wages stated, but he has other duties in the building besides working this lift.

Worcester Election Petition.

MR. HEMMERDE (Denbighshire, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been drawn to the result of the recent proceedings which took place at Worcester, before Mr. Justice Bigham, on appeal from a decision of the Royal Commissioners on the Worcester Election; and whether a full Report of such proceedings will be laid upon the Table of the House; and, if so, when.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) was understood to reply that the evidence had already been laid in full, but he would obtain a copy of the judgment and allow any hon. Member who wished to see it.

MR. HEMMERDE: According to a report I have in my hand, some further evidence was taken beyond that already laid on the Table of the House.

SIR JOHN WALTON: I will look into it; I can only go by the official record.

The Corrupt Practices Act.

COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.): I wish to ask the Attorney-General a Question of which I have given him private notice, whether his attention has been drawn to the tyrannical dismissal of workmen from the works of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, in consequence of the part they took in the recent municipal election; whether he is aware that the men now dismissed received notice after a former election in which the manager was a defeated candidate; and whether he will take steps to institute a prosecution under the Corrupt Practices Act.

SIR JOHN WALTON: My attention has not been called to the subject of this Question, but if the hon. and gallant Member is right in his statement that the action of the employers in regard to their workmen was due to the votes they gave during the municipal election an offence will have been committed against the Corrupt Practices Act, and if the evidence on which he relies is brought before the Director of Public Prosecutions it will receive consideration.

COLONEL HERBERT: I will bring the facts before the hon. and learned Gentleman.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Make a statement outside.

Gravesend Water-Guard Inspector.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if a naval officer has been appointed to the position of water-guard inspector at Gravesend; and, if so, whether this is a departure from the past practice of promoting an experienced assistant inspector to such positions, which was an encouragement to capable men to enter the service and fit themselves for the highest duties of their profession.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. It is not the case that, as suggested in the Question, vacancies as water-guard inspector have hitherto been exclusively filled by the promotion of assistant inspectors, nor does the present appointment imply any discontinuance of the practice which the Board of Customs have always followed of giving due consideration to the claims of deserving subordinate officers in filling the superior appointments in the water-guard branch of this service.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Would it not be a good thing to keep these appointments within the coastguard service itself instead of going outside?

MR RUNCIMAN: Every consideration has been given to the circumstances of this appointment, which, in my opinion, is a highly proper one.

Doncaster Land Tax Commissioners.

*MR. C. NICHOLSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Doncaster): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. Smith, the clerk to the Land Tax Commissioners of Doncaster, has declined to send a notification of the appointment of Mr. Mark Dowson as Land Tax Commissioner to him, although Mr. Dowson has been duly appointed under the Act of last session and his name has appeared in the London *Gazette*; and what steps he proposes to take in order to enforce the carrying out of Section 1 of the said Act.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Section 1 of the Act of last session does not direct clerks to Land Tax Commissioners to send to each Commissioner a notification of his appointment. It has, however, been the practice of the clerks for many years to send such notifications, and I cannot understand why an exception should have been made in this case. If my hon. friend wishes I will call the attention of the Commissioners for the district to the matter.

Birds and Agriculture.

MR. MONTAGU: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the attention of the Board has been called to the demand for a departmental inquiry into the feeding habits and utility of birds; and whether the President contemplates action.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): We have received certain representations on this subject, but my noble friend does not think that it is necessary to institute a formal inquiry into the matter. We are, however, considering the advisability of inviting the agricultural correspondents of the Board and other competent observers to supply us with information as to the utility or otherwise of the birds in their localities.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University) asked the hon. Member whether he was aware of the fact that recent investigations had tended to show that certain wild birds fed to a very large extent on fruit buds, thereby injuring the crops of the fruit-growers in this country. Would he consider the desirability of appointing a small Departmental Committee to inquire into the effects of the Wild Birds Protection Act?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: I am quite aware that that is the case. I would refer the hon. Member to the latter part of my Answer.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): When the hon. Gentleman is inquiring about birds will he extend his inquiries to the habits of croaking ravens?

Scientific Agriculture.

MR. MONTAGU: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the President of the Board of Agriculture has considered the importance attaching to further development of national research into scientific agricultural problems; and whether any consideration of such research will be included in the terms of reference to the Departmental Committee just appointed.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: The question of scientific research into agricultural problems has for some time past been engaging our close attention, and I hope that some practical steps may be taken in the near future with a view to the improvement and extension of existing arrangements. The facts of the case are, however, well-known, and there would have been considerable disadvantages in enlarging the scope of the reference to the Committee in the manner suggested.

MR. MOLTENO (Dumfriesshire). I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, why the Departmental Committee on Agricultural Education has been limited in its terms of reference to England and Wales.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: My last Answer was intended to cover this Question also.

Norwegian Trawlers.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the Norwegian Minister claimed all those trawlers whose masters were illegally prosecuted as Norwegian vessels; and whether he can name any trawlers now fishing in the prohibited waters outside the three-mile limit of territorial waters in the Moray Firth which are British-owned, or which have a majority of English fishermen amongst the crew.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The intervention of the Norwegian Minister was limited to the cases of Norwegian subjects who had been prosecuted for illegal trawling. With reference to the second part of the Question, what trawlers there may be now fishing as suggested by the hon. Gentleman I am unable to say.

Scientific Investigations in the Moray Firth.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland what are the reasons alleged by the Scottish Fisheries Board for advising that the waters outside the territorial limit of three miles should be enclosed in the Moray Firth and British vessels prohibited from fishing there, and whether any scientific investigations have been carried on in the prohibited waters; and whether the High Court of Justiciary in Scotland have stated that whilst the Moray Firth by-law is legal under the Scottish Act of 1889, the Act is not in accordance with International Law, or the North Seas Convention of 1882, or the Schedule of the Fisheries Act of 1883.

MR. SINCLAIR: When By-law No. 8, closing the waters inside a line drawn from the Ord of Caithness to Buckie was passed, the chief reason submitted in support was: The primary object in making the by-law was the great desirability of preventing the capture of immature fish by trawlers, which it was believed existed in considerable numbers in the closed area. Similar arguments were advanced when By-law No. 10 protecting the whole of the Firth was passed. Scientific investigations have be enconducted within the Firth. The Answer to the last part of the Question is in the negative.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: May I ask what scientific investigations have been carried on?

MR. SINCLAIR: Scientific investigations of more than one kind, and very largely by the "Goldseeker," which is the vessel conducting investigations for this country under the International Scientific Investigation Scheme.

Scotland and Agricultural Education.

MR. MURRAY MACDONALD (Falkirk Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland why Scotland is excluded from the terms of reference to the newly-appointed Departmental Committee on Agricultural Education; and whether he will use his influence with the President of the Board of Agriculture to have those terms widened so as to embrace Scotland.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): At the same time may I ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that agricultural education is necessary to the success of small holdings, why Scotland has not been included in the terms of reference to the Departmental Committee on Agricultural Education.

MR. SINCLAIR: In Answer to these Questions, I have to state that, in view of the recent establishment and marked success of the Agricultural Colleges at Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen, and of the organisation which they are developing for bringing home to farmers in all parts of their districts the latest results of scientific research on the subject of agriculture, such an inquiry as that proposed does not seem to be necessary at present in the case of Scotland.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland why Scotland has been excluded from the terms of reference of the Committee on Agricultural Education; and whether he intends to appoint an independent committee on agricultural education in Scotland.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have to refer the hon. Member to the terms of my Answer to-day to Questions on this subject by the hon. Members for the Falkirk and Dumfries Burghs. I do not think it necessary at present to appoint an independent committee for Scotland.

Scottish General Aid Grant.

MR. SMEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland on what date the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education in Scotland met to discuss the distribution of the general aid grant for 1907; how many members were present; and will he give the names of the members who were present.

MR. SINCLAIR: It is contrary to precedent and practice to give such particulars as to meetings of any committee of the Privy Council.

MR. SMEATON: Does this committee ever meet?

MR. SINCLAIR: I can add nothing to the information I have already given in my Answer.

Alness Ferry Tenancy Dispute.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the late Mr. Kenneth Cameron, after having been tenant for thirty-eight years of a croft on the Newhall estate of Mr. Shaw Mackenzie at Alness Ferry, Ross-shire, received notice to quit next Whitsunday on the ground of his advanced age; that a similar notice has since his death been given to his sons; that Mr. Cameron, without any assistance from his landlord, reclaimed the whole of the farm from the moor, drained it, fenced it, and erected all the buildings upon it; and that he and his sons offered to pay nearly quadruple the existing rent; and whether he will consider the desirability of introducing into the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill a clause providing a remedy in cases of this kind.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no information in regard to this case other than that now furnished by my hon. friend's Question. The facts as stated present a very hard case; and I regret that so far it has not seemed possible to provide protection for such cases in the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill.

Training of Scottish Teachers.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the Provincial Council for the Training of Teachers in Glasgow is refusing to grant assistance to teachers who propose to attend the vacation courses abroad in modern languages on the plea that no funds are available, notwithstanding the fact that the funds which were regularly employed for this purpose in past years by the County Committees on Secondary Education have now been transferred to the Provincial Councils.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am not aware that any Provincial Committee has refused to grant assistance to teachers proposing to attend vacation courses abroad, but in any case it is not the fact that the funds which have hitherto been available to County Committees for this purpose have now been transferred to Provincial Committees.

Scottish Catholic Teachers' Pension.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the provisions relating to the pension fund in the present Education Bill, place the teachers of Catholic schools in Scotland in as good a position as the teachers in other schools; and, if not, whether he will take steps to safeguard their position.

MR. SINCLAIR: I must refer the hon. Member to the provisions of the Bill, which will be circulated to Members shortly.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is it proposed to make any provision for these teachers in the Bill to be brought in shortly?

MR. SINCLAIR: The Bill will be in the hands of hon. Members in two or three days. I have declined the requests of hon. Members to state in advance its provisions, and I must ask the hon. Member to be good enough to wait until he sees the Bill. It has gone to the printers.

British Trawlers under Foreign Flags.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that on Thursday morning, the 7th instant, a Wick boat, the "Endeavour," W.K. 621, John Sinclair, skipper, came ashore, and reported damage of six nets by a trawler's dan, about five miles off Wick; whether the trawler which was working at the time was the "Campania," of Stavanger, S.R. 4, apparently a Norwegian; whether the dan was painted "Campania, Grimsby;" and whether he proposes to take any steps to protect the Wick fishermen.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The facts are substantially as stated by my hon. friend. Section 7 of the Act of 1885 seems to provide for the procedure which may most conveniently be followed in cases of this kind, and I am in communication with the Fishery Board as to whether this is a case in which the fishery officer could advisedly for his part adopt the course of action indicated.

Mr. MORTON: Is it the fact that the fishery officers at Wick neglected to report this case to the Scottish Fishery Board until I had put this Question on the Paper? Has he since reported and assessed the damages at £15?

Mr. SINCLAIR: I am not aware there was any ground whatever for the hon. Member's statement.

Mr. STANLEY WILSON: Is this "Campania," Norwegian or Grimsby owned?

Mr. SINCLAIR: I will inquire.

Irish Trade Returns.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is in a position to state when the table of Irish exports and imports for the year 1905 will be published.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): The compilation of the tables of imports and exports from Ireland in 1905 has been almost completed, but it will be several weeks before the report is ready for presentation to Parliament.

Irish Fishing Brand.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Report of the inquiry as to the necessity for a brand for Irish-cured fish has just been presented; what were the conclusions arrived at, and will the Report and the evidence taken be published.

Mr. BIRRELL: The evidence taken at the local inquiries referred to is being printed, and there will be no objection to its publication. No Report on the evidence has yet been made, nor have definite conclusions been arrived at. The Department of Agriculture will give full consideration to the evidence, and will consider the question of publishing a report on the matter.

Inchigeela Letter Robbery.

Mr. J. F. MASON (Windsor): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on Monday, 18th March, a postman was waylaid by disguised men near Inchigeela, county Cork, and robbed of a number of letters supposed to contain writs for service on the Grehan estate, and whether anyone has been made amenable for this offence.

Mr. BIRRELL: I am informed by the police authorities that the fact is as stated in the Question. The police have not yet succeeded in making anyone amenable for the offence.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N): Are they being discouraged in their efforts?

Mr. BIRRELL: No, they are not.

Rineen Fishing Industry.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board will undertake the construction of a suitable pier at Rineen, near Waterville, county Kerry, with a view to extending the fishing industry.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Congested Districts Board have recently considered the question of constructing a pier at Rineen with the object of extending the fishing industry. The estimated cost of a suitable work is not less than £4,000, and having regard to the state of their funds the Board have been compelled to decide against taking action at present.

Stewartstown Disturbances.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, at a demonstration organised by the Ancient Order of Hibernians at Stewartstown, county Tyrone, on Sunday last, a serious disturbance took place, and a police officer was injured; if so, whether this disturbance was in any way due to the display of a Union Jack by a loyalist in the town; and whether this Union Jack was hauled down, and by whom.

Mr. BIRRELL: There was no demonstation at Stewartstown on Sunday last. The hon. Member probably intends to refer to a demonstration which took place on Monday, 18th March, when a slight disturbance took place, and a police officer received slight injury. The police authorities inform me that the disturbance was not due to the display of a Union Jack. A large red flag bearing the word Stewartstown, and having a small Union Jack in one corner, was displayed by the opposition crowd which had assembled, and the police officer responsible for the preservation of the peace requested the owner to remove it, as its display in the circumstances was calculated to lead to a serious disturbance.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT inquired whether the flag displayed was not a red flag with the Union Jack in the corner; was it not usually known as the Royal ensign, and was the use of that flag to be publicly condemned?

Mr. BIRRELL: My information is that it was a red flag bearing the word "Stewartstown." It has a small Union Jack in one corner, and whether that answers to the description of the Royal Ensign I will leave the hon Member himself to say.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked whether the disturbance which occurred was not entirely due to an attempt being made to prevent the original meeting, which had been long advertised, being held.

Mr. BIRRELL said that no doubt a second meeting was arranged long after the first had been advertised. He had seen reports of the proceedings, and he was satisfied that the police had behaved with great courage, sense, and discretion in the matter.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT again pressed the question as to whether the Red Ensign in future was to be condemned if used on such occasions.

Mr. BIRRELL: I do not think the Royal emblem ought to have the word "Stewartstown" upon it.

Irish School Buildings.

Mr. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say out of what funds the school buildings to be erected under the proposed new grant in Ireland are to be maintained, cleaned, and heated when they are in use.

Mr. BIRRELL: National schoolhouses vested in the Commissioners of National Education are kept in repair by the Board of Public Works. When school premises are vested in trustees, it is the duty of such trustees to keep the house, furniture, etc., in repair. For the maintenance of non-vested schools the local persons interested in these schools are responsible. In all ordinary national schools, whether vested in the Commissioners, vested in trustees, or non-vested, the cost of cleaning and heating is provided from local sources.

Education Report.

Mr. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he proposes to comply with the request to publish the Report made by the Committee of the Commissioners of National Education, the Intermediate Board, and the Department of Agriculture during the Chief Secretaryship of the right hon. Member for South Dublin.

Mr. BIRRELL: My predecessor fully considered the question of laying this Report on the Table, and decided that it was not worth while to present it to Parliament. I am of the same opinion.

Mr. MURPHY: Seeing that the Report would enable the Irish Members to see what the Irish Education Board recommended, will the right hon. Gentleman reconsider his decision?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not think that would be the result. The Report would not be of value to anybody.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: This is the Report of a body consisting of representatives of educational authorities. Would it not be as well to let the Irish Members see it?

MR. BIRRELL: I cannot depart from the decision of my predecessor. The Report would really throw no light on the subject.

Civil Rights of Irish Teachers.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will at once recommend the Commissioners of National Education to amend their rules as to the civil rights of teachers in Ireland so as to make them reasonable; and whether he can suggest to the Commissioners the advisability of removing existing obstacles interfering with the Irish National Teachers' Organisation in communicating with the Board by deputation or otherwise on matters relating to primary education in Ireland.

MR. BIRRELL: I will at once make representations to the Commissioners of National Education upon the subject of the rules referred to.

Donegal Fishery By-laws.

MR. CHARLES MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that if the new by-law passed by the Board of Agriculture with reference to the Donegal Fisheries comes before the Privy Council in Ireland on appeal, that body must either confirm or reject the by-law altogether and cannot vary it; and whether he will further consult the Board of Agriculture with a view to inducing it so to modify the by-law as to remove the objection taken to it by the people of Donegal.

MR. BIRRELL: The by-law in question has already been lodged for the approval of the Lord-Lieutenant in Council, and the matter is, therefore, *sub judice.*

Evictions at Kingston.

MR. MOONEY (Newry) asked if the Irish Secretary would adopt measures that would prevent the numerous evictions threatened by Irish peers in the Kingston Urban District, seeing that 123 poor families were about to be turned out through no fault of their own.

MR. BIRRELL replied that he had no power in the matter. It was only fair to the landlords to say that the buildings in question became insanitary during the currency of long leases when they had no power to interfere, while the local sanitary authority which had the power refused to exercise it.

MR. MOONEY: Is it not the case that in eighty-two of the 132 cases the buildings are absolutely new?

MR. BIRRELL: I will inquire.

British Museum Reading Room

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the effect upon a great many students and literary men and journalists of the closing of the reading room of the British Museum for six months, whether accommodation will be found for them elsewhere.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I have nothing to add to the Answer given to a similar Question yesterday by the First Commissioner of Works in reply to a Question by my hon. friend the Member for Islington East.†

The Defence Committee.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury of how many members the Defence Committee consists; and whether he is able to state the names of its members to the House.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Members who ordinarily attend the meetings of the Committee are:—(1) The Prime Minister; (2) The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; (3) The Secretary of State for War; (4) The Secretary of State for India; (5) The Chancellor of the Exchequer; (6) The First Lord of the Admiralty; (7) The First Sea Lord of the Admiralty; (8) The Director of Naval Intelligence; (9) The Chief of the General Staff; (10) The Director of Military Operations; (11) Lord Esher; (12) General Sir John French. As explained by the late Prime Minister, other Members of the Cabinet and officials who possess special knowledge on subjects under consideration are asked to attend meetings of the Committee from time to time.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxxi., 1655.

Lord Esher.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether Lord Esher, in his capacity as a member of the Defence Committee, has power to require the production to him of any and all such confidential Papers from the Admiralty, the War Office, and the Foreign Office as he may call for; and, if so, whether Lord Esher exercises this power.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Lord Esher receives only Papers which are circulated to the members of the Committee on subjects under discussion, or about to be discussed. He has no power to call for any Papers from any Department of State, and nothing of the nature suggested is possible.

Small Holdings.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tewkesbury Division of Gloucestershire, I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to introduce the Bill dealing with the provision of small holdings in England.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot yet fix a date for the introduction of this Bill.

MR. BECKETT: Are we to understand that the attentions of the Prime Minister are to be confined to the corpus vile of Lord Rosebery?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am a Scotsman. I do not understand, and I do not see the joke.

Blocking Bills.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) asked the Prime Minister if he was prepared to propose a new Standing Order to prevent a Member having a notice to bring forward a Resolution being deprived of his opportunity by the presentation of a Bill on the same subject by another Member.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I sympathise with the object of my hon. friend, and I will consider if anything can be done to meet the case he refers to.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR: Would it not be possible to deal with the matter during the present debates on procedure?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member had better give notice of that Question.

NEW BILLS.

SEA FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) (APPLICATION OF PENALTIES) BILL.

"To provide for the payment to the Fishery Board for Scotland of the penalties or other moneys recovered in respect of illegal sea fishing in Scotland," presented by Mr. Sinclair; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 145.]

WHALE FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To regulate Whale Fisheries in Scotland," presented by Mr. Sinclair; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th April, and to be printed. [Bill 146.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE) (EASTER)

Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Motion for the Adjournment of the House (Easter), if under discussion when the business is postponed, be resumed and proceeded with, though opposed, after the interruption of business.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

POST OFFICE (LIVERPOOL AND HONG-KONG MAIL CONTRACT).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Contract, dated the 2nd day of February, 1907, with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the conveyance of the mails between Liverpool and Hong Kong, for the period from the 7th day of April, 1906, to the 6th day of April, 1908, printed in House of Commons Paper, No. 76, of Session 1907, be approved."—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) said the reason why this Motion had come before the House was because of the important Standing Order, No. 72, which required that all contracts for conveyance of mails by sea should be approved of by the House of Commons. It was important to go back to the origin of the contract. It began in 1889 in rather a curious manner. A petition in its favour was in that year circulated among Members of the House by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The contract was defended on the general ground that it was advantageous to us from a military and naval point of view. The petition was largely signed, and he contended that it was a bad thing that the agents of a railway company should be allowed to frequent the lobbies of the House asking for signatures in favour of a contract which would put money into the pocket of a company. At that time the country and the House of Commons were filled with the idea of an "all British route," and they went to great expense to establish a British cable. The contract was never regarded as a Post Office contract; it was a naval and military contract, and conditions were inserted for the carrying of troops and gun platforms, etc. In 1889 the Treasury became exceedingly suspicious of the whole scheme. Their Minute said—

> "The scheme is not justifiable upon postal reasons alone."

Despite that, the Post Office was charged with the bulk of the subsidy. The total subsidy amounted to £60,000, of which Canada contributed £15,000 and the Admiralty £7,312, the Post Office paying the difference. The whole essence of the question was that a rapid through service from this country to the Far East should be assured, and if they were not satisfied upon that point the whole scheme was worthless. As he had said, the Treasury were not certain of the matter. In 1889 they said—

> "Some difficulty was felt with regard to the Atlantic portion of the line, the control of which is entirely in the hands of the Dominion Government. Satisfactory assurances were, however, given by that Government that the necessary acceleration of the service should be secured."

Twelve years later, in 1901, when the contract expired, the Treasury again reported—

> "At the time when the contract of 1889 was made it was anticipated that the Canadian Government would before long secure a considerable acceleration of the Atlantic service. That expectation has not been realised."

The contract had been running for twelve years and the expectation of a fast service had not been realised. Despite that, however, the contract was renewed for another five years, viz., to April, 1906—

> "To allow further time for the attainment of the object in view."

During all that time also, the object was not realised, and the fast service did not begin until July last. The position was that the Canadian Pacific Railway had received £60,000 a year on the understanding that a fast service would be established, and it had not been established. They had received £60,000 a year for seventeen years and that, if hon. Members cared to work it out, amounted to over £1,000,000. £1,000,000 had been paid to the shareholders on a specific understanding which was never carried out, and he submitted that that £1,000,000 was virtually obtained on false pretences. In 1902 they had very similar arguments in favour of the contract to those used in support of the original contract. It was again pressed upon the House because of political considerations, and the Admiralty were again a party to the contract. It was, however, strongly opposed by several members of the Radical Party in 1902. They had changed their geographical position in the House, and he would be interested to know whether they had also changed their opinions. They were asked to renew the contract for another two years. It expired on 7th April last. Had the company been receiving any money in the interval; if so, by what authority? Had they been performing services in the interval; if so, who paid for them? Because the words of the contract of 1901 were precise. It absolutely expired on 7th April, 1906, and it provided that if a journey undertaken on 7th April was not completed, the company were to be under the obligation to complete the journey and not receive any payment. If any money had been spent in the interval, he would suggest that it had been illegally paid; and he might point out that if it had not been paid, he could not see what was the urgency for pressing this Motion now upon the House. If they could wait eleven months before renewing the contract, why not wait thirteen or fourteen months? He submitted that if an illegality had been committed, it could not be wiped out merely by a new contract between the Postmaster-General and a railway company. At any rate it was a slipshod system of finance against which the House ought to protest. They had no right to let a contract lapse, and come twelve months later and try to wipe out past laches by voting money in this way. The House had one important function above all others. They were the guardians of the public purse, and if they did not stop financial irregularities when brought under their notice, there was no limit to the burdens which might be put upon the taxpayers. He submitted that the contract could not be any longer defended on military or naval grounds. The Admiralty refused to pay another penny towards the system. They had been paying £7,000 a year; they refused to pay any more; they would have nothing whatever to do with the contract; they did not want the ships; they did not want the guns; they wanted to go out of the business altogether. The War Office were equally contemptuous of the whole business. According to a Treasury Minute no recommendation had been received from the War Office. They might be told that the Canadian Government wanted the contract. He thought that was very likely. But could they in this matter separate the Canadian Government from the Canadian and Pacific Railway Company? They had to remember that the Canadian and Pacific Railway Company was a very powerful corporation, employing large numbers of voters, controlling large areas of land, and able to advance or retard the prosperity of whole districts in Canada. Could the Canadian Government afford to quarrel with such a company? He thought not. And he confessed that he thought the subtle interests of the railway company extended even beyond Canada. Hon. Members might have noticed during the past few months paragraphs circulated in the Press about the possibility of running a fast service of steamers from an Irish harbour in Galway to Canada. Anybody who knew anything about the west coast of Ireland knew perfectly well that the idea of getting a fast service of steamers from Galway to Canada was highly improbable. So far it would appear that the Canadian and Pacific Railway Company desired to give the impression that a service was to be created from Ireland. He was told that they were having a survey made for a railway across county Mayo. He hoped his Irish friends were not deluded by this enterprise of the Canadian and Pacific Railway Company. The enterprise might cost a few thousands of pounds, but a very large sum was at stake. He believed that in this instance the company asked for a renewal of the contract for ten years—that was to say, a sum of £600,000 was at stake. The survey for a railway in county Mayo would not cost £600,000, even if it cost £6,000. He sincerely hoped that Irish Members would not be led away by the tactical suggestion that a fast steamboat service was to be started from Galway. At any rate, they would find that it was an absolute delusion. Nor could this contract be defended on any general principle of supplying a new shipping route. The whole question of shipping subsidies had been inquired into by a Select Committee, which had strongly reported against, any general system of subsidies other than for services rendered, as costly and inexpedient. If they accepted that doctrine, let them apply it to this particular case. There were many steamship routes which might plausibly be subsidised which would be of convenience to this country, but this particular route as wanted for mail purposes was absolutely useless to us. No British manufacturers would ever dream of sending goods across Canada by rail; it would be absolutely out of the question; Canada no doubt might use such a route for her commerce with the Far East; but, what was more important, America might utilise it; at any rate, the existence of this subsidised route, from Vancouver to Japan and China, must have the effect of lowering the freights for steamships conveying American goods across the Pacific. In other words, we were to-day using our money to subsidise a steamship route which gave our competitors, the Americans, an easier entry into the China market. That was rather a serious thing, considering that so large a portion of our goods went to the China market, and that the China market was so important to our cotton manufacturers. This question came before the House solely as a Post Office contract and nothing else. Unless it was used by the Post Office it was absolutely of no use at all. He ventured to challenge the Postmaster-General to rise and tell them frankly that if he were a free agent he would pay £45,000 a year for this service. At any rate it was the view of the Treasury that it was an unjustifiable claim. In answer to a Question which he put to the Postmaster-General the other day, the right hon. Gentleman told him that the total receipts from this route for letters other than mail matter, including receipts from foreign countries, amounted to £11,400. For that he had to pay £45,000 a year—four times as much as he received. That hardly seemed good business. What did they get in return? They were told that they got an alternative route to the Far East. Yes; but it was a route over which the steamboats travelled only once a month, whereas by the Suez Canal the service was six times a month. Even if the actual time taken for the journey were less, that route would always be relatively neglected, because anybody posting a letter would select the mails by the Suez Canal which would go at once, rather than wait until the Canadian route mail started, unless it was just about to leave. He might point out that they had one alternative route to the Far East, and that was by the Siberian Railway. Our letters would certainly get more quickly to the Far East by that route. But that was not all. The Postmaster-General was now paying £7,000 more a year for this service than before because the Admiralty had ceased to pay anything. What did he get for the additional £7,000? He would say that he got additional speed; but that would be inaccurate, because additional speed was stipulated for in the contract. For seventeen years they had been paying money for additional speed, and they had never got it. It was no defence to say that they were now getting the additional speed; that was included in the original bargain, which was never fulfilled. He admitted that the Postmaster-General was getting the carriage of mails from Liverpool to Canada. That cost about £650 a year; so that he was getting £650 a year, and he paid £7,312 in order to get it. That certainly was a brilliant bargain for the Pot Office and the Treasury to make. He contended that the contract involved a scandalous waste of the taxpayers' money. Only last week, the Chief Secretary for Ireland had explained to the House what difficulty he had in persuading the Treasury to give him £40,000 a year for building schools in Ireland. They all knew how seriously money was wanted for many purposes. They knew how many schools were under-staffed for want of money; they knew how teachers were badly paid; yet while they had that difficulty in getting £40,000 for Irish schools, they were pouring £45,000 a year into the pockets of the shareholders of the Canadian and Pacific Railway Company, whose shares were up to 170 or 180. The company, therefore, was not doing so badly, yet they were subsidising this booming property, while schools were under-staffed, while money was wanted for all sorts of purposes, and while the country was still under the burden of taxes imposed for the purposes of the war. Might he remind the House that many taxpayers were extremely poor people; yet they were taking their money from them in order further to swell the already swollen profits of a wealthy corporation? Might he venture also to remind Members on his side of the House that they were all returned pledged to economy? If those pledges were not mere idle phrases, he appealed to every Liberal Member present to follow him into the lobby in condemnation of this contract.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury) thought the hon. Member based his views on several important misconceptions, one being that this contract was the renewal of an old contract. It ought to be clear from the Treasury Minute that this was not a renewal of the old contract but a new one altogether. The conditions of the new contract were wholly different. It was not fair to describe this as an old contract. The Government had made a better bargain than their predecessors. It was in effect a new contract. The conditions were different, and it was made for a shorter period in order that it might be treated as experimental. The old contract provided for the carriage of mails from Halifax to Hong-Kong and Chinese ports. Now the mails were to be carried from Liverpool. The period under the old contract was ten days longer than under the new, the period of the journey having been reduced from forty days to something under thirty days in summer and thirty and a half days in winter; so that very substantial advantages had been secured. His hon. friend had pointed out that the Admiralty had dropped out of the contract altogether. It was because the old contract was indefensible that the Admiralty decided last year that they would have no part in this except in so far as they could secure advantages for seamen and officers who might wish to travel by this route. So far as the present contract was concerned, the Government were getting exactly what they paid for. They were getting vessels from Liverpool to Halifax or Quebec, they were getting a service across the Canadian continent, and steamers to Hong-Kong and Chinese ports, so that it was scarcely fair to say that the present was a renewal of the old contract. The acceleration of the service was one advantage, and a larger range of ports was another. In China there had been added a large number of new ports which were all mentioned in the Treasury Minute. It had also been secured that in the case of general average the mails which were carried aboard these vessels should not come into calculations made for general average purposes. In case of damage no lien could be exercised on the mails. There were also a large number of clauses all of which provided for the extension of the service if the General Post Office required it. Then it would be noticed that the schedule which provided for the purchase of the vessels run by the Canadian Pacific Company was altogether done away with. The Admiralty had entirely changed their views with regard to merchant cruisers, and they were now more likely to purchase vessels in the open market than to make contracts far ahead, as they did some years ago in the case of the Cunard Company. The changes made had in fact turned this into a new contract. No payment in respect of it had to be made during the coming financial year. So recently as January this year the Treasury wrote to the Post Office to the effect that they desired that before any payment was made the approval of the House of Commons should be obtained, and it was for that approval that they were now asking.

MR. HAROLD COX: Is the provision for this money taken under the Appropriation Act?

MR. RUNCIMAN said he understood that this payment would be provided very largely out of the savings and would be covered by the Appropriation Act.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Is the payment retrospective?

MR. RUNCIMAN said if the hon. Member would allow him he would explain the exact position. The payments which might be made if this Resolution was agreed to would be made very largely out of savings. The service had been going on since July of last year. Up to July the vessels were running on the old contract, which did not fully expire until then. One quarter had to be paid for under the old contract, and for that provision was made in the Estimates for 1906–7 by the allocation of £17,000, and that amount had been paid over. But the amount in respect of the new contract had not yet been paid, although the contractors had been pressing for payment. The payment would, of course, be retrospective, as the service secured since July last year must be paid for. His hon. friend had asked why any payment should be made in respect of this contract seeing that it was not a profitable contract. At the present time it was not a profitable postal contract; but the improvements which had taken place since July of last year led to the belief that the statistics under the old contract were not a very reliable guide to the possibilities under the new. So far as could be ascertained, the improvement during the first quarter of 1907, in comparison with 1906 under the old contract, amounted to something like 300 per cent., and that increase might, of course, go on throughout the present year. He was sure the House would realise that the Treasury were quite prepared to admit that in dealing with this contract there was no immediate profit to be got out of it; but, having secured a very largely accelerated service and a larger range of ports, and having made arrangements for the mails to be taken from Liverpool and taken immediately on delivery in Canada across the Canadian continent by train, they felt that they had been able to do something which might advantageously affect the whole of the mail service to China and the Far East. Therefore, he thought the question of the postal advantage might very well be deferred until they had had twelve months experience of the new contract. The hon. Member for Preston had asked why they did not exercise the same generosity in regard to Irish education as they had done in regard to this contract. In regard to the Irish question, which was disposed of on Saturday last, the hon. Member was under a misapprehension. It was true the Government then announced a grant of £40,000 for new elementary schools in Ireland during the next year, but the Treasury was not squeezed into doing that, but they did it of their own free will. In February a question on that point was put to him by the hon. Member for East Mayo and early in March an arrangement was made that £40,000 should be devoted to that service. The contract was entered into on a temporary basis for two reasons. The first was that the Treasury were prepared to give the new terms of the contract a chance; and the second was that it was impossible to carry on the discussion of the matter purely between the General Post Office here, the Postmaster-General in Canada, and the representatives of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Canadian Government considered that their interests were largely involved, and had strongly pressed the Government to accede to their request that the contract should be made and given a full trial, and that, if necessary, the matter could be discussed at the Colonial Conference. The Government felt that they could not refuse that request. As they were to have the whole matter threshed out at the Colonial Conference, and as they ventured to think that there would be increased traffic, they were justified in having a two years contract, which would afford a means of testing the new service. The Treasury had been perfectly frank in the matter from the beginning. The Government still held the view that to pay anything in the shape of subsidies for which they did not get a *quid pro quo* was entirely inconsistent with their policy.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said he had listened to the statement made by the Financial Secretary with intense interest. He had been perfectly frank in the matter, but he wished to ask whether, in making this contract, there was no consideration of a possible military service.

MR. RUNCIMAN: None whatever.

SIR GILBERT PARKER thought that if the contract was based solely on the service rendered at the present time by the Canadian Pacific Railway it ought not to have been made. He did not think the basis was purely economical. His hon. friend had pointed out that the cost of this service represented £3,461 for every journey from Liverpool to Hong Kong. That was an enormous sum, and whilst he was in favour of a proper payment for services rendered he thought that was an undue payment. If he went into the lobby in favour of the resolution he would do so in the full belief that other considerations had entered into it. [AN HON. MEMBER: In spite of the statement to the contrary.] He was speaking now of the pressure put upon the Home Government by the Canadian Government. Of course he saw the position with which the hon. Gentleman would have to deal if the contract were put on any other basis. It would raise the whole question of subsidies for Imperial reasons. He still believed that originally this contract was to some extent a subsidy. [Cries of "Oh!"] There was nothing unfair to the hon. Gentleman in that statement; he had presented the case for the Treasury very clearly. No one could have presented it better, but there were other things to be said. The question of subsidies was an important one. He believed that this was a subsidy as well as a payment for postal services. He believed that if they were going to have subsidies at all, they should be entended to the steamships trading with West, East, and South Africa, and all other steamship services which gave advantages to the people of this country and the Colonies. He supported that kind of thing. He would like to associate himself with the Treasury Bench in such a policy. He submitted that it was just such a policy which the hon. Gentleman had presented to the House that day. If this payment was not intended alone for services rendered to the Postal Department, it was for military and strategic reasons, and also for Imperial reasons. He thought those Imperial and strategic reasons were perfectly sound, and therefore he would support the contract. He hoped his hon. friends on that side of the House would support it also. He supported it on the general principle that these subsidies were very good things. If there were reasonable subsidies now on the East coast of Africa our commercial position there would be better than it was at present. The same thing was true of West Africa. He fancied that they had also more or less incorporated the principle in the contracts made for the services with the West Indies, and somewhat in those with West Africa. In spite of everything which had been said, this Government was more or less committed to subsidies, at any rate, in respect of payments in excess of the value of the services rendered for carrying mails to the different portions of the Empire. He suggested that hon. Members interested in the question should press the Government for a clear statement of policy, in order that they might fully understand everything behind the contract and be able to judge of it.

*MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton) said the hon. Member for Gravesend had informed the House that he intended to support this contract, and he had been good enough also to state that he did not do so in consequence of any reason given from the Treasury Bench, but on account of some unknown and imaginary reasons which he thought might be at the back of the proposition. In other words, he said that the contract was so foolish on the face of it that he would not have supported the question before the House but for the fact that there seemed to be something at the back of it beyond what had been stated by the Government. He (Mr. Ridsdale) thought that, if the House of Commons was going to pass it, it should have reasons apparent on the face of the contract. They were asked to pay away £45,000 annually of the taxpayer's money to a corporation, a Colonial corporation which he would wish to see supported and successful, but one which already was successful, rich, and powerful probably beyond any other Colonial railway company. The Canadian Government, no doubt, gave £15,000 a year towards it, but it might have its own reasons for doing so. One thing was clear—we were going to lose over it. Why should the Admiralty deliberately discontinue their contribution to the company, if there were any strategic advantages to be derived from the contract? They would not give any longer £7,000 towards it.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I said "for military reasons."

*MR. RIDSDALE said that that was even more hypothetical than the other reasons for which the hon. Gentleman supported the contract. He could not stretch his imagination to think what they might be. The Post Office, they were told, was now entering upon a new contract and was getting a better bargain—was *qua* post office, paying £7,000 a year more for the advantages which we were getting! The House had had read out to it what the advantages were. There was the acceleration of the service, but it was small.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Ten days out of a journey of thirty days.

*Mr. RIDSDALE said that at any rate it was not quicker as regarded Hong-Kong than the Brindisi route, and the Brindisi route offered six services in the month of four weeks whereas this only offered one.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I am sure my hon. friend does not wish to speak under a misapprehension. It does offer very special advantages for all Chinese ports except Hong-Kong, and there it takes about the same time.

*Mr. RIDSDALE said he understood that people who wrote letters did not much value these advantages since the great bulk of the correspondence travelled by the Brindisi route and not by the Canadian-Pacific. He imagined that, if the advantages were so great, the bulk of the correspondents would be only too anxious to send all their letters by the Canadian-Pacific route; but the figures given showed that they sent their letters by the Brindisi route. He admitted that it was a better bargain in one respect. It was to be made for a shorter period—for only two years instead of twelve. If they were going to make a bad bargain they had better make it for as short a period as possible. The contract had cost the country over £1,000,000, and it was high time they made an end of it. They were returned—he spoke as a Liberal—to endeavour to supervise some of the extravagances of the last Government, and he was not going to vote for any single form of extravagance which he might have clearly pointed out to him, even if it was proposed by the Treasury Bench. He thought this was a case in which the Government followers might intimate to their leaders that strict supervision must be exercised over the Estimates, and that they did not intend to pass any items which would not bear the closest scrutiny.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said the Secretary to the Treasury had used a somewhat remarkable argument. He had said that if they passed this Motion to-day it would tide them over the Colonial Conference. He would have thought it one of the most profitable subjects of disussion there.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I think that is what I said.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked whether it would not have been better, then, to wait for the discussion at the Colonial Conference, instead of passing this Resolution to-day. It would have been better not to have anticipated the decision of the Colonial Conference by a vote of that House, but to have waited until they had the whole of the particulars before them and then brought it to an issue. In the matter of steamship subsidies to Colonial mail lines it was important that the House should regularise its ideas of policy. To that extent he entirely agreed with hon. Gentlemen opposite. They had a precedent in the action of hon. Gentlemen opposite when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was Secretary for the Colonies. The right hon. Gentleman had to consider the question of continuing the subsidy of £70,000 a year paid to the Royal Mail Company in connection with the West Indian mails, and he found himself so embarrassed by the number of competitors that he ultimately came to the conclusion that the best thing was not to pay the subsidy at all, and so the Treasury benefited to the extent of £70,000 a year. His hon. friend, in bringing forward this Motion, was in a difficult situation. What was really the position? Here they had a rich and prosperous railway; he supposed it was one of the most prosperous in the world. It had an expansive power which had already been amply demonstrated, and it was able by the leasing of the fertile territory through which it passed to add enormously to its profits. The railway happened to be in Canada, and they were by this contract subsidising a prosperous railway company to enable it to carry on a joint steamship and railway enterprise in different parts of the British Empire. There were parallels to that sort of thing in other countries. Germany had adopted a policy of the kind, as to which an able article had appeared in the *Commercial Supplement* of *The Times*. The German Government owned the railways, but, not content with that, it had used its power as owner of the railways to initiate steamship enterprises, in which the railways and the steamship companies were so mixed up that no one could tell which was which. The result was that through railway and steamship rates were quoted by Germany to ports in the Levant and to different parts of the world so low that great complaint was made in England of the severe competition that British exporters had to meet. It would be interesting to know whether the accounts of the Canadian Pacific Railway steamers were kept separate from those of the railway. Were they separate enterprises? The Government were admitting the principle adopted by the German Government without exercising the control which the German Government exercised over the railway. Again, if the policy was right in Canada, why should it not be right in England? Why should they not give a subsidy to the English railway which performed the useful function of initiating a steamship service to Ireland? As a business man, he thought money spent in subsidies to particular lines of steamers might be more profitably employed in improving harbour accommodation and terminal facilities, and putting our ports on a basis to compete with the heavily-subsidised and well-equipped ports of the Continent.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe) said that the hon. Member for Gravesend had admitted that this contract could not be supported on economic grounds, but on grounds only known to himself, which, however, were repudiated by the Secretary to the Treasury. It was really immaterial whether this was a new contract or a continuation of an old contract; but it was obvious that we were not getting value for our money. The Secretary to the Treasury had just taken the figures out of the old contract and put them in the new contract in the hope that in the future we might get value for our money. He protested that that was not the way in which any contract should be made. The price should be fixed according to the business at present being done, and not according to the amount of business that might possibly be done in the future. He was glad that the Prime Minister had come in, for he was sure they would receive his support in regard to the matter.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said that the hon. Member for East Toxteth had asked why the Government did not wait until after the Colonial Conference, and then decide to come forward with a definite proposal. But he would remind the hon. Gentleman that this was a continuance of a policy which had been carried on for twelve years.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that the old contract came to an end in April last year, and it had been pending ever since.

MR. RUNCIMAN said that the contract had not been pending since last April. The Government made the new contract in April last year, and the new service started in July last.

MR. HARWOOD said he was not talking at present about the contract but about the policy of the Government. It was not a new policy. At the end of twelve years the Government might have said, "We will stop this business altogether," or "We will make a new contract for a short time, and then we will see what terms we can make." The Secretary to the Treasury had said that the Government had actually got better terms. The hon. Member for East Toxteth had argued that it would have been better to wait until after the Colonial Conference had met, but it should be remembered that the Conference would not meet until after the end of the financial year. His own belief was that the Government had taken the course which any business man would have taken in the matter. There were many considerations to be taken into account in connection with this alternative mail-route. It was capable of great development, and he thought it was more than possible that it would give a better and shorter mail service to certain ports in the Far East than at present. The Secretary to the Treasury had given the House grounds which justified them in expecting that things would improve in the immediate future, and he hoped that the friends of economy would not push their theories beyond the limits of common sense and ordinary business prudence.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) pointed out that this was only a temporary contract to last over a certain period, when it could be discussed and a new arrangement, possibly, shadowed forth by the Colonial Conference. The Government were no advocates of subsidised services of this kind, where an absolute equivalent for the money spent was not received. In this case, whether the contract was regarded as advantageous or as disadvantageous, it was undoubtedly a better contract than that which it superseded, because the conditions were better in several respects. So that something had been gained. The object with which the contract was entered into was simply to have a provisional arrangement in the expectation that some new arrangement of the whole question would be made when the opportunity arrived this spring to discuss the matter fully with the Canadian authorities. The contract had been in operation since last July, and the Government were bound to continue it. But the Colonial Conference would take place soon, and then there would be an opportunity of arriving at an arrangement more to the mind of hon. Gentlemen. Considering that it was only to tide over the time till a thorough and lasting arrangement could be made, there should be no hesitation in assenting to the Resolution, which must be passed before the end of the month.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said that he was in favour of the contract for Imperial reasons, because Canada desired it. It was worth while entering into the contract for those reasons, even at considerable pecuniary sacrifice. But it was desirable that the country should know why Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House supported the Resolution. It was not for any of the reasons given by the Secretary to the Treasury. As a commercial transaction it was certain that this country did not get the best of it; but the matter was perfectly simple. We were rightly paying a considerable sum without getting commercial value for it for Imperial considerations. The reasons for the contract ought to be frankly stated; and the Government had not frankly given the true reasons. They were sound, but the Government had not the courage to state them.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said that the postal services rendered under this contract probably did not account for the amount of the subsidy, but there was the other side of the question to be considered. The first question was whether the services rendered were adequate for the amount of money paid. As the Financial Secretary to the Treasury had said, there had been great acceleration of the service, the time having been reduced from forty to thirty days. There was also the question of trade routes. This line was the only line running from Canada to the other side of the Pacific, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company could in consequence to some extent command their own terms. He was not at all certain that the amount of the service did sufficiently account for the large amount of the subsidy, and he confessed that he had some doubts as to whether the services were sufficient to account for the sum of £45,000. But there were further considerations. There were cases in which Imperial considerations came to the front, and the Report of the Steamship Subsidies Committee, of which he was Chairman, set out that in rare cases, in view of special Imperial considerations, subsidies were necessary for establishing fast direct British communication; and, at the moment, they reported that such a subsidy should be favourably considered for a line to East Africa, where there was no direct British service, and where British trade was handicapped by the subsidies given by foreign Governments to foreign lines. As to whether the circumstances here justified the making of a contract on these lines he did not pronounce an opinion; before he did so he would like to hear a little more about trade in the Pacific; but the fact remained that some contracts, in rare cases, had to be made by the Post Office. He thought the particular case of East Africa was still as important as it was at the time of that Report. The circumstances did demonstrate the necessity of having a fast steamship communication to the Colonies of the British Empire which were situated there. Attention had been called to the fact that Chili was being served by German lines. That was done by the lowering of rates, and as soon as the British lines were starved out the Germans raised their rates.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood), on a point of order, asked whether it would be competent for an hon. Member pecuniarily interested in the Canadian Pacific Railway to take part in a division on this question.

*MR. SPEAKER: The rule of the House is that any Member who has a direct, personal pecuniary interest of a private and particular and not of a public and general nature, makes himself liable, if he votes in such a way as to advantage his interest, to have his vote disallowed. Whether the vote should be disallowed or not is a matter for the House, at a subsequent stage, to determine.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: If an hon. Member holds ordinary shares in the Canadian Pacific Railway, is he precluded from voting ?

*MR. SPEAKER: That would be a matter for the House to decide.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked what was the date of this agreement. Was it not the fact that there had been no agreement since last April, and that the present agreement, made in February, was only ante-dated ?

MR. RUNCIMAN: No, Sir. There was a provisional agreement, equally binding, before this contract was drawn.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Suppose the House were to withhold its approval ?

MR. RUNCIMAN: It would simply be dishonouring the cheque of this country. We are in honour bound to make the payment to the Canadian Pacific Railway for the services under the contract.

MR. HAROLD COX asked why a Supplementary Estimate could not be introduced to pay the company for the services rendered.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton) said that although he proposed to support the Government in this matter he would do so with feelings of considerable dissatisfaction. As he understood the position, this was a contract entered into on commercial grounds only. It had been preceded by two other contracts which had existed for ten and five years respectively, both of which had been most unsatisfactory in their result. As a business man he held that it would have been in accordance with business principles, if the Government desired to make a subsequent contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway, for them to have insisted that it should be made for a sum that would result in a benefit accruing to this country.

MR. HAROLD COX, in order to avoid a division, asked whether he might understand that if any further contract was to be entered into with the Canadian Pacific Railway the House would have an opportunity of considering it in advance, and that the contract would be placed on a business footing.

MR. RUNCIMAN: No, Sir, I cannot give such a pledge. It has never been customary for any contract to be discussed in advance. The Government are quite well aware of the feeling of the House and will endeavour to meet it.

MR. HAROLD COX: Then, might I put it this way——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has already spoken four times.

MR. HAROLD COX: I only desired to ask a question, Mr. Speaker.

*MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. Member will get another hon. Gentleman to ask it for him.

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) said that, as he understood, the Prime Minister had in fact said that when this contract, which was of a provisional character, terminated, the Government, having heard the debate, would be prepared to make a very different contract. [Cries of "No."] Yes. This was one of those inexplicable muddles into which every Department occasionally seemed to lapse. What the explanation was he could not say, but he thought the Secretary to the Treasury would be very careful how he came down in the future with an appeal for economy, at the same time putting forward such a contract as that to which the House was now asked to assent.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 161; Noes, 22. (Division List No. 99.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, Redmond J. (Tyrone, N.
Bell, Richard
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Branch, James
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Bull, Sir William James
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingham
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dunne, Major E Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hunt, Rowland
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonshre
Kekewich, Sir George
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin S
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Seaverns, J. H.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Waring, Walter
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthn)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES

Bowerman, C. W.
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Dilke, Rt Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hudson, Walter

Mr. Guest.

Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jowett, F. W.
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Snowden, P.
Steadman, W. C.
Thorne, William
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wilkie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Hodge and Mr. George Roberts.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE (EASTER).

Motion proposed,—"That this House at its rising, this day, do adjourn until Monday the 8th April."—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said he desired to call attention to certain matters appertaining to the administration of the Unemployed Workmen's Act. It was true that at this time distress was not so acute and the summer was near, but they had to look beyond the summer to the winter which would follow it. At the present time many distress committees created under the Act had ceased operation altogether. The Act itself required re-modelling, but it would not be in order to enter upon the discussion of new legislation. He respectfully submitted that up to the present it was not so much the Act which had broken down as the administration of it. Weak and ineffective as the Act was, it had not had a fair trial; its limited powers had not been put to the fullest use. He thought they were entitled to some explanation from the President of the Local Government Board as to the reasons which had induced his Department to refuse all assistance towards making special provision for unemployed women. Under the Central Body in London a sum of money had been expended to provide work for unemployed women; but similar applications from West Ham had been refused, and the President of the Local Government Board had informed them that it was not intended to make any further grant from the £200,000 in the way of encouraging special provision of work for unemployed women. The matter seemed to him a very serious one, and they were entitled to some explanation. He had said that the Act was not being used to its fullest extent; all was not being taken out of it that was in it. But that was only half true. Recently the administration of the Act had been weakened. It was less effective this year than it was last year, or the year before. That was not due to any falling off in the nature of the operations of the Act. Everybody who knew anything of the question was aware that the distress committees had never been able to make provision for more than the merest fraction of the numbers applying for assistance. In Woolwich there was more distress and unemployment than there was three or four years ago, owing to the large number of discharges from the Arsenal. He would take Woolwich as illustrating his point that the Act was not being so vigorously administered as formerly, although the need for it was greater than it had been. The number registered at present as seeking employment was 1230, but the number registered was no real gauge of the actual number requiring employment. Men had become sick of registering without result. They underwent a more or less insulting—he said that advisedly—cross-examination before they were allowed to register at all, and, having registered, they had to wait month after month, and, as he knew personally, from year to year, without employment. As a result, men were treating the whole thing with contempt, and they were not going near the office to register. In the winter of 1904–5, during the first year of the Act, the number who registered was 1,001, of whom 318 were provided with work. The average work found for them was three weeks per man. The borough council had a special work in hand, and the number of weeks work provided by the distress committee during the winter was 3,001. That was, out of 1,000 applicants only 318 were employed. In 1905–6, the number registered was 1,900, an increase of 900 over the former year. Of that number 128 found employment as against 318. The average period of work given to them was two days per man, as against three weeks in the previous year. Now they came to the current year, 1906–7, when the number registered was 1,252, while the number for whom work was found was eighty-one, the average period of work being one and a half days per man.

He submitted that they had there a fairly typical case, but not typical in this respect, that employment in Woolwich was lessening, whereas in the rest of the country it had grown somewhat. They had the fact that while the number of applicants had been increasing, the number of men for whom employment had been found was decreasing, and the length of the period during which work was provided had also been going down. Let him anticipate a possible objection. It had been said that with the coming of the summer the unemployed would be absorbed; that men were unemployed during the winter owing to seasonal causes, and as the building trades became brisker, the surplus labour would be absorbed and the unemployed difficulty would cease to exist. That was true to a certain extent of the building trade, and of out-door occupations. Let him, however, give one illustration drawn from a manufacturing town. He would deal with an industry in which machinery was largely employed. In the borough of Leicester there were 1,412 persons on the unemployed register and under the distress committee. They came almost exclusively, or at least largely, from the boot and shoe industry, and were men who at one time followed a highly skilled occupation. Their being out of work was not due to any lack of demand for leather goods. He had statements from manufacturers in Leicester in which they affirmed that the output of goods was greater and the demand better than it had been in any former period of the town's industry. He hoped it would never be said, as he had heard it said before, that the cause of unemployment in Leicester, as in similar manufacturing towns, was due to our free trade system, because manufacturers in Leicester whom he had visited and questioned on this very point, were practically unanimous in saying that whilst tariff reform might injure the boot trade it could in no sense help it or improve the demand for labour. Mr. Alderman Thomas Smith, chairman of the distress committee, and a manufacturer, gave as his opinion that unemployment in the boot and shoe trade and the hosiery industry was largely due to the displacing of men by machinery. Mr. Councillor Jabez Chaplin, secretary of the Hosiery Union said—

> "The men are out because machinery displaces male labour and employs child and female labour. Owing to improvements made in the Griswold Knitter, only one girl is now required to work four machines, *i.e.*, four different operations. When hand machines were in use the wages paid for knitting a dozen pairs of socks was 3s. 6d. The introduction of the rotary machine brought this down to 2s. Then came Cotton's patent reducing the price to 1s. 4d. Then Griswold's Knitter, bringing the price down to 8d.; and finally Spier's Knitter (fully automatic) reducing the price to 4d. per dozen."

They did not complain of cheapening the cost of production. He must make himself right on that point. He quoted that as showing how machinery was increasing production, and unless they could show that demand was correspondingly increased it followed that there must be a displacement of labour. With this automatic machinery one girl was able to attend four machines, whereas in the old days a man worked a single machine for himself. The same thing was taking place in the boot and shoe trade. Thirty-three per cent. of the workers had been displaced recently by the introduction of what was called the clicking machine. Mr. Lilburn, secretary of the distress committee of Leicester said—

> "The principal cause of unemployment in the boot and shoe trade is that men are being displaced by machinery;"

and he made this very startling statement—

> "The age at which workmen are dismissed starts at thirty."

At thirty years of age in that particular industry, men were becoming too old to find employment. Mr. Parker, a Labour member of the board of guardians, said that a man of forty years of age found the greatest difficulty in obtaining employment, being regarded as too old and unable to sustain the severe pressure put on workmen under modern industrial conditions. He thought it would be admitted that a man of thirty or forty years of age, in good working condition, should not necessarily require to be thrown out of work. But the explanation was given by Mr. Alderman Banton, J.P., of Leicester who spoke of the team system recently brought from America, and introduced into the boot and shoe trade. He said—

> "A boy of sixteen is put on a machine making one section of the boot only, and working for boy's wages. When he arrives at the age of twenty, the master is bound by the agreement arrived at between himself and the trade unions, to pay that youth a minimum wage of 29s. This the former refuses to do as he can get another boy of fifteen or sixteen to work the machine. The consequence is that at the early age of twenty this young man becomes one of the unemployed, and absolutely unfit for any trade, having been taught nothing but to make a certain section of a boot or shoe."

The secretary of the National Boot Union had stated that boys and girls were being employed with these machines to the exclusion of the grown up heads of families. That disposed of the allegation so frequently made that the unemployed were unemployed because they were unskilled workmen. That was a case where skilled workmen—so far as it could be called skilled work—were being displaced to make room for unskilled youths who were taken on because they accepted boys' wages of a few shillings a week, and because the employer could get almost as much out of them as out of men. The question of child labour in that industry was mainly a question of wages. As to the willingness of the unemployed to accept work, he raised the point because it had been said in the House that out of the hundreds of unemployed that had been offered work at Leeds only a few had accepted it. It had been inferred that the reason that those men did not accept the work offered to them was that they belonged to the wastrels—not in the political but the industrial sense. The Leeds afforestation colony was situated in the Washburn Valley at the watershed of the Leeds Corporation Water Supply, and was seven miles from the nearest railway station. The only accommodation provided for the men was a bungalow in which there was no stove. There was accommodation for forty-eight men and when they came in from work wet, as they many times did, there was no proper accommodation for drying their clothes. He did not need to remind hon. Members that the unemployed that went to work in that place were not overburdened with wardrobe and they had no change of clothes. What about the wages? The wages were 20s. for a forty-eight hours week. That was the wage allowed by the distress committee, but out of that was deducted 11s. a week for board on the spot. He was aware that the President of the Local Government Board had told the House that the men were not compelled to board in the bungalow but could buy their own food; but when it was remembered that the place was in the middle of the moor, seven miles from the nearest railway station, it was difficult to see how the men could buy their own food. Eleven shillings a week went for board, and a further shilling per week was deducted for a pair of boots supplied at a net cost of 12s. 6d. The men were allowed sixpence a week pocket money. The balance of the weekly wage was paid to the wife and family in Leeds. Of the 7s. 6d. so paid, probably 3s. 6d. would go in the renting of a single room. Four shillings a week would thus be left to provide food, clothing, and everything else for the man's dependents. It would be admitted that under these circumstances the conditions were none too enticing. The men went to the Washburn Valley from Leeds, many of them wretched and ragged. Some had only an old coat and an old pair of trousers on, and they were emaciated with hunger. Under these circumstances it was no wonder that they did not accept work in the depth of winter. Perhaps men in better physical condition, or in better circumstances, would have been only too glad to accept work. The fact remained that something like fifty of these men were working there now, and that they were doing the work as cheaply, and at no more cost to the distress committee, than was the case when the work was done by the regular town-council employees. He submitted that, given proper training, the unemployed could competently perform the work given them in exchange for an honest, or fairly honest, wage. But to take men direct from the slums and place them in the middle of a moor in the depth of winter, poverty-stricken and naked, and expect them to be fully equipped for the work, was to expect too much of human nature. Attempts had been made to train these men before putting them on the land, and they had been so successful that he thought they ought to be encouraged. There were many places where there was a real need for assistance, but as no money could be raised locally no grant could be made by the Local Government Board, and the consequence was that nothing could be done for the unemployed in those districts. Newport in Monmouthshire was a case in point. There the distress committee made out a case to the local Government Board for a grant, and were refused. Despite the refusal, and because of the distress, there had been a second attempt, but before making that second application they issued an appeal for funds to assist the unemployed. With the exception of a promised donation of £10 from the hon. Member for Newport himself not a single copper had been given. They had at Newport some 300 men registered as wanting work, and hundreds of others who had not been registered. The charitable had closed their purse against the unemployed. The complaint was that the Local Government Board had refused a grant, and nothing could therefore be done to assist the unemployed in that locality. It would be remembered that no wages could be paid under the Unemployment Act out of the rates, but that land could be acquired for farm colonies. The £200,000 grant was to supplement voluntary effort. Subsequent to the grant being made a circular was issued to distress committees stating that the money was only to be given in order to supplement the money raised locally by private charity. That had worked out so that where there was real need for work being found for the unemployed and where no money could be raised locally, no grant had been given, and, as a consequence, nothing had been done, or could be done, for the unemployed. If that stood alone it would be quite enough, but he quoted it as typical of others. There was a worse case under the Scottish Department, which exemplified the way the Act was being administered by those responsible for it. In Glasgow unemployment had been acute, and still continued to be acute, despite the employment in the shipbuilding industry. The distress Committee under the Glasgow Town Council applied to the Scottish Department of the Local Government Board to obtain permission to acquire land for a farm colony under the Act. They thought there could be no possible objection raised to a proposal of that kind. An inspector was sent down to examine various estates, and finally one was selected which was partly bog and partly rough land, on which a number of men could be profitably employed. The cost of the estate was about £7,000 or £8,000, and formal application was made to the Local Government Board to sanction the purchase. The money was going to be paid out of the local rate—not even a loan was asked for. To the astonishment of the Glasgow Distress Committee the application was refused. Mr. T. Faulkner Stewart, Secretary to the Local Government Board, Edinburgh, had written in answer on the 18th March—

> "Regarding the proposals for the Distress Committee to acquire different farms for the purpose of the Unemployed Workmen Act I am directed to express the Board's regret that they cannot see their way to sanction any scheme of this nature."

It was not only that they objected to that particular bit of land being acquired, but any scheme of that nature the Board could not agree to, and the reason given was that the Act expired on 12th August next year, and that to embark upon an undertaking which might be permanent under a temporary Act would be bad policy. Surely, so long as the Act existed, and there was need for its being put into operation, it was absurd to make these pretences for not using the powers conferred by it. His contention was that it was not for the Local Government Board to refuse to agree to schemes. The work of the distress committees was to find land, and the Local Government Board ought to sanction applications of that kind; but the Board took a different attitude, and refused even to sanction a scheme for which the people of Glasgow were willing to pay. The Act was weak, and last year the Government promised to strengthen it. Promises made both in the King's Speech and by the President of the Local Government Board had been broken, and the House was entitled to an explanation. The unemployed difficulty was permanent and required a permanent solution. Now was the time, when trade was not so bad, to make plans to meet the difficulty which everyone knew was bound to come. Whether trade was good or bad a certain proportion of people were always out of work. The Act should be applied more vigorously, and he complained that whatever vigour had been applied had been in the direction of stultifying the efforts of those who had been seeking to make the most of the Act. More vigour must be shown by the Local Government Board in the right direction, and the old policy must be departed from. If anything were wanted to stimulate them surely the disgraceful spectacle of the last few days in London and Liverpool ought to be an incentive, when thousands of men were competing like wild animals for the opportunity of going abroad and playing the blackleg. These things were a disgrace to England, and the House had a right to expect that more sympathy and more consideration should be shown in giving the distress committees a lead in the right direction rather than in making efforts to thwart them.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.) said that the various figures used in the last debate on this subject and the estimates based upon them showed that there were in this country at least 500,000 adult workers out of employment. On the 27th of March last year he put a Question to the President of the Local Government Board as to when they might expect the pledge given in the King's Speech to be fulfilled, and the Answer given was a distinct promise of an amendment of the Unemployment Act of 1905. Prior to the election they had a pronouncement from the Prime Minister, in which he spoke of works that could be fostered, undertaken and assisted by the Government. and the right hon. Gentleman specially alluded to public employment and a reform of the Poor Law as means by which the great distress due to unemployment might be diminished. The £200,000 granted last year was surely not given in place of an amendment of the Act. He and his friends at least took it not as a sum which was to replace legislation, but as a sum to aid for some time pending a drastic amendment of the Unemployment Act in keeping with the promises previously made by Ministers of the Crown. The present Act required a condition of destitution on the part of the applicant before any assistance, even in the few cases where it could be given, was given at all. The view of himself and his friends was that it was far better to prevent destitution than to promise to relieve it, or lessen it, when it appeared. They considered that in place of the unfair and numerous tests still applied in connection with the men who registered themselves as willing to work, there should be but one test for finding a man labour, and that was willingness to perform it. They submitted that apart from the suffering and distress imposed upon the individual idle worker, the fact of his idleness was itself a very great loss to society at large. It was so much wealth running to waste which wise administration and Government should prevent. They did not believe that a man should be kept out of work and in a condition of starvation merely because another man —an employer of labour—could not make a profit by purchasing his work. The absence of profit to a private employer was not a good enough reason for keeping another man unemployed altogether. It was not the individual employer who imposed duties and obligations upon the citizen. It was the State which imposed those duties. It was the State which called upon the workman to live up to certain standards, to fulfil certain obligations, to conform to certain laws, and to avoid the evil effects of vagrancy. The State imposed these conditions, and he and his friends claimed that it was the duty of the State to provide opportunities, nay, certainties, by which those obligations might be met. They had found that, in the speeches of the President of the Local Government Board, the building trade had been used, he would say as a reason, if not as an excuse, for deferring the amendment of the Unemployed Workmen Act. He found from the particulars supplied to him at Manchester that of those whose names were on the Unemployed Register not one-seventh were attached to the building trade, and further that not one-fourth came under the classification of general labourers. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the building trade as though it were a living entity, or an individual, to whom application could be made. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the building trade must put its house in order; but they could not appeal to a trade which was a combination of conflicting interests and individuals, and ask it to give attention to the general evils arising from a highly complicated matter. The Manchester local committee had proposed to establish a colony, the object of which was to see by experiment whether it was possible for men, by their own work on it, to maintain themselves and their families. They had appealed to the President of the Local Government Board for financial aid for that experiment, and had been refused, they did not know why. He submitted to the right hon. Gentleman that his action in dealing with the £200,000 voted would be judged, not by the amount of money saved, but by the benefit derived from the expenditure. He did not see why a sum of £4,000 could be sent out to establish an industry in St. Helena, for the purpose of relieving distress there, while no money could be sent down to the city of Manchester to relieve distress there. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken in terms of scorn and reproach of what was called Government relief works, but he submitted they had got beyond the days when everything could be left to the scrambling of individuals. A State responsibility had already been admitted in connection with this matter. The Government relief works on which the right hon. Gentleman poured scorn were no more degrading than the work the right hon. Gentleman was himself performing for the Government. Manual labour ought to be provided for unskilled workmen as well as for skilled employees. In their own homes the individual who corresponded to the unemployable was most cared for—the cripple, the blind, the erring one. He was succoured and helped by the rest of the household. Why could not the same principle be applied in the State? Men who were said to be unemployable deserved a better fate than was their lot to-day—to be cast hopelessly adrift. In connection with this problem he had looked at the speeches of the President of the Local Government Board delivered twenty years ago, and the right hon. Gentleman was now asking the Labour Members to accept ways and means and principles which he had condemned in the strongest terms. Surely in those twenty years some progress had been made; and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to let their appeals fall on more sympathetic ears. It was true that they made these appeals in milder terms than the right hon. Gentleman used to do. He joined with his hon. friend the Member for Merthyr Tydvil in maintaining that they could not be put off with promises as to legislation for land reform, housing reform, or other reforms. Pending legislation of that kind men and women were starving. The late Government did at least make some attempt by setting up the framework of machinery to deal with this great grievance; and it should be the pride of the successors of that Government to strengthen that Act, and so reap the fruits of legislation which would solve the unemployment problem.

MR. L. HASLAM (Monmouth Boroughs) said that the President of the Local Government Board did not see his way to set apart any portion of the grant of £200,000 for his constituency on the ground that the distress there was not of an unusual nature. When he heard that he went to the town clerk and said he would like to give a subscription to a relief fund but that he did not want to be the only subscriber, because it might then be said that he was only doing it for the sake of securing votes, the last thing he would think of doing. Personally, he regretted that the list was not subscribed to, but he had only done what he thought was right in the matter. The hon. Member for Merthyr had referred to the boot trade in Leicester, but if the hon. Member would look up the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette* he would see that the exports of boots and shoes in February amounted to £151,000 and the imports to £65,000. He noticed that the figures worked out at £4 10s. per dozen for the imports and £2 10s. per dozen for the exports, and he would like to know why there was that difference of £2 per dozen. If America, with improved machinery, could send boots in considerably dearer, there must be something wrong in Leicester, or in other boot-manufacturing centres. The American boots must be of better quality, and he would advise the people of Leicester in the boot trade to wake up. Without the use of the best machinery we could not compete with other countries, and though no one regretted more than he that the introduction of machinery should have the effect of throwing people out of employment, still a good deal of machinery had been introduced in the last forty years, while there had been an actual decline in pauperism, and his belief was that more people would have been thrown out of employment if machinery had not been introduced. He agreed that there ought to be some kind of colonies where the unemployable might get improved health and be made fit for work. That would add to the wealth of the country and not be any ultimate expense at all. While, however, they were talking of the Government giving large sums of money for the relief of the unemployed, he would like to point out the desirability of economy in order to enable the State to deal with old-age pensions. To his mind that was the most important question the country had to face, and he urged members, in view of it, to be very careful in pressing on the Government schemes which necessitated large expenditure.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said the House would forgive him if he refused to go into the most interesting by-paths raised by previous speakers on this question. He wished to confine himself to the most important question of the administration of the unemployment fund. The hon. Member for North-East Manchester had stated that the Government had broken their pledge on this matter in the King's speech. He had definitely stated in August last when the President of the Local Government Board came with the proposal to give £200,000 to assist the unemployed, that he and his friends recognised that that was a redemption of the pledge of the Government in the King's Speech. Speaking for himself alone as representing one of the districts most affected, he would prefer to have the Act for the remaining year of its existence if it could be worked with more efficiency and elasticity rather than new legislation. Cases had been mentioned in which the Act had either been misapplied or not sufficient attention had been paid to the needs of the district, but there was another side to the question. He represented the most necessitous of all the districts in the country, and there the Act was welcomed because it was the first attempt made to recognise a national desire to deal with unemployment, which, after all, was a symptom of national disease. No kind of local action could adequately deal with the question. The committee of which he was a member was told by the Local Government Board that they must appeal for funds. They did appeal and got a few shillings or a few pounds. They devised various schemes for dealing with the unemployed, and they had received the utmost sympathy and substantial support from the President of the Local Government Board in connection with those schemes. They had a farm colony which had been carried out efficiently and which he hoped would set an example to other towns. They had also received large sums of money for emigration purposes. The Hollesley Bay Colony was established through the sympathy of the late President of the Local Government Board, partly to find some kind of channel to get people back to the land. No one ever imagined that they were going to start a colony to cultivate corn or cattle. No one but a lunatic would ever attempt such a thing. They heard pleasant generalisations like those of Lord Rosebery as to people leaving the country because they wanted amusement in the towns. But that was not his experience of Hollesley Bay. There he found that a certain definite proportion of the men were quite willing, if the opportunity were given, to make a start with their wives and children. In his opinion it would be of such national advantage that they ought to encourage it by every means in their power. There were men willing to take up small holdings who were unable to obtain access to the land, and that was one reason why the particular legislation promised by the Government should not be delayed for ten or twenty years but should pass this session. Most of the wild accusations which had been made against the farm colony in Suffolk were utterly baseless. It was said that the colony was ruining the smaller owners around by underselling them. The prejudice of the farmers around was very strong against the colony, partly because it was something new and partly because they feared the introduction of town labourers would create discontent among the agricultural labourers. He asked the President of the Local Government Board to give them before the time came for a renewal of the unemployed grant some kind of complete and impartial estimate of the work that had been done in connection with the various distress committees. Some of the representatives of the Local Government Board had presented reports which were a mixture of prejudice and ignorance. They could not help it, because they were biassed against the breaking down of the old Poor Law system. There was a strong feeling in the House to urge the President of the Local Government Board to carry out the policy which he outlined on the Address and to bring it forward as a matter of urgency, namely the introduction of a Small Holdings Bill and a Housing Bill which, if carried out, would do much for the social betterment of the people.

Mr. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said that one of the greatest difficulties in the way of small holdings was the inability to obtain them at such a price as would permit them to be let at economic rates. If they could be obtained at a reasonable figure there would be no difficulty in letting them. With regard to the allegation that machinery had caused a great deal of the want of employment, he pointed out that America used a great deal more machinery than this country; that the want of employment in America was not so great as here, and that the workmen there earned better wages. The Americans had certainly increased their manufacture of boots and shoes, and in spite of the 25 per cent. for carriage their boots and shoes were cheaper than those manufactured in this country. It was the gospel of cheapness which was ruining this country at the present time. It was that which was ruining the health and physique of the women of the country by causing them to work at starvation wages. But if our workpeople would have cheap foreign manufactured goods they must put up with want of employment and underpaid labour. It was that which had driven the men out of those industries in which they used to be employed.

*Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said the great difficulty with regard to the unemployed was how to get money to carry out the experiments for giving employment. If his advice was followed £250,000 could be at once obtained for the purpose. It was not necessary to have any legislation to effect the saving of £250,000, which was now spent on rate-aided vaccination. If the Local Government Board gave them a free hand in the matter the local authorities would not spend the money in that way, and would therefore be able to spend it in providing work for the unemployed. Although there were among the unemployed men and women who were physically and intellectually strong, the bulk of the unemployed were below the average of the physique and intelligence of the people. How was that? The President of the Board of Trade recently stated that his department distributed 600 carcases of veal which had been used to obtain vaccine in Smithfield market every year. Those carcases ought to be consumed in the destructor, because the distribution of diseased meal must be a cause of illhealth among the people. What happened was that a calf was taken into the laboratory and strapped on the operating table, its belly shaved, and 100 or 150 cuts made with a knife; it was then inoculated with stuff and about eight days after the poison had been introduced something like 150 postules were produced upon its belly. It was then taken back to the laboratory, and strapped on the table upon its back and these postules were pinched with iron pincers and pulled off. The pus was then put into glass tubes and was finally inserted into the blood of the people all over the country. The animal was then killed in order to see whether it was tuberculous or not, and if it was found that the calf was free from tubercle the matter was used for vaccination. The carcase was sent to Smithfield. There was an animal killed in the height of a fever which produced 150 postules and then the meat was sold for human food. If an ordinary farmer did such a thing he would be severely punished and perhaps sent to gaol without the option of a fine. Nevertheless we had these *savants* of the Local Government Board admitting that the pus produced in that way contained germs closely analogous to those of cancer and other organisms which might conduce to erysipelas and to the destruction of flesh. Could the flesh of this animal be in a healthy state? Was it right to go on spreading disease in this way? As long as they did that sort of thing how could they go on talking about developing science? He would show the House how this money could be saved. The authorities insisted upon the people of Croydon being vaccinated, and a large number of summonses had been issued. He had in his possession the copy of a death certificate of a child who died at the age of twenty months from a disease following vaccination. That was the sort of thing which resulted from the use of stuff the manufacture of which was so horribly cruel. Before the year 1898 the lymph used to be taken from one baby to another, but ever since that year calf lymph had had to be used and a regular shambles had been created at which a large number of calves were cruelly sacrificed every week. He could give to the House the case of a child who before vaccination was quite healthy, but had died since. The Local Government Board sent down a doctor to investigate the case, but his report had been kept secret. In the days when the officials of the Local Government Board believed in vaccination they used to publish these reports. He had in his hand the photograph of a child which had just been vaccinated, showing a horrible wound in its arm. That child had recovered, but it had been ill for seventy-two days, and it would be weak for life. They were obliged to vaccinate a child before it was six months old, and that was one of the great causes of bad teeth.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now arguing in favour of abolishing the Acts which compel vaccination, and that is out of order.

*MR. LUPTON hoped the President of the Local Government Board, so far as lay in his power, would stop the distribution of this pus until he had got some matter which was quite safe. He was absolutely the master of the situation. He had only to say that the pus had produced a death here and an illness there which were attributable to vaccination, and declare that he would not be responsible for sending out any more unless he got something which was absolutely guaranteed. He hoped no more of the pus which had caused so much death and disease would be distributed until its origin was known. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to put a stop to the poisoning of the blood of these little people. It was admitted now that the best part of the people of the nation were practically unvaccinated. They might at least allow a few generations of babies to escape—he was sure they would be a great deal better for it—and during the next two or three years let the medical officers of the Local Government Board try to find out a real prophylactic which would do no harm and if they succeeded he would take off his hat to them.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea) said he had noted with interest, and some degree of sympathy, points raised by the hon. Member, but on that occasion he could not say more than that he would look into those points during the portion of the holidays he devoted to official work, and he relied on the hon. Member to remind him of the extent to which he kept his word. The hon. Member for Merthyr, with lack of knowledge and some unfairness, had adversely criticised the administration of the Unemployed Workmen Act; but that the Act had been carried out in a most generous spirit was evident from the fact that there had been no complaint from any distress committee who had submitted a scheme of work of the way in which their demands had been met. It was true he had refused to sanction unemployed workwomen's rooms at West Ham on simple grounds he had already explained. The West Ham Distress Committee had quite enough work to do with finding employment for 1,200 or 1,300 men; with looking after the emigration of from 1,200 to 1,400 people; with carrying on a farm colony, and other work. For these reasons, and because the scheme for workwomen's rooms was not good enough, he had not sanctioned it; and that was his answer to the hon. Member for Merthyr. If the hon. Member's remarks concerning Woolwich had been intended for the Woolwich Distress Committee instead of himself, they would have been more relevant, for he was not responsible for their work. The committee obtained its funds from the Central Unemployed Body, and every application of that Central Body had been fairly and generously dealt with. If it were the case that, out of 1,200 men registered, only eighty-one had had work found for them, the fault was not that of the Local Government Board, which granted to Woolwich the money which the Woolwich Committee could persuade the Central Unemployed Body to allot to it. On 15th March, the latest date for which a return was available, the Central Body had in hand of the voluntary fund a balance of £2,022, of the rate fund £22,199, of the Exchequer Fund £8,212, of the Hollesley Bay Fund £1,481—in round figures, the actual total being £33,916; so that, if Woolwich had been thought deserving, the local Distress Committee could have had more money than they evidently had received. Perhaps the Central Body did not think the claim of the local committee sufficiently strong. Over and above their balance of £33,916, the Central Unemployed Committee had a farthing rate undrawn upon to the value of some £45,000. It was, in the face of these figures, contrary to the fact to say that he had starved Woolwich through the Central Unemployed Body.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked how much of this surplus of the Central Committee was mortaged for schemes.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said the amount mortgaged was not 25 per cent. of the total. He had given the figures for 15th March. Since then, no doubt, they had incurred obligations for further grants. The interesting observations of the hon. Member for Leicester applied not to the administration of the grant to the unemployed, with which alone he was dealing, but to the causes which were displacing men. On a proper occasion, if this subject came within his purview, he should not be disinclined to reply to some of the hon. Member's points, but they were not germane to the present discussion. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil had accused the Local Government Board of refusing to administer fairly and generously the Unemployment Act. That was not true so far as Leicester was concerned. What were the facts? He sent a circular to Leicester in October last saying that if they wanted help they could have it if they responded to the circular. In response they asked for a sum of money and he sent them £900 as a first instalment. The next instalment he sent was £600, which made £1,500 in all from the Local Government Board. The mere fact of sending that £1,500 set into operation the execution of other works and the spending of more local money making in all a sum of over £3,000. In spite of that fact he was asked to answer the charge of starving the distress committees. At this moment, with spring upon them, Leicester had got a balance in hand of £760 including £270 of the £1,500 he had sent them, and he had received from them within the last forty-eight hours a letter from which it appeared that the distress committee did not want any more money from the Local Government Board. With regard to what the hon. Member for Merythr Tydvil had said about the Leeds afforestation scheme, he asked the hon. Member to make himself a little more closely acquainted with the facts before making such statements as he had just made. If the hon. Member would go down to Leeds as he had done and see for himself the accommodation he had criticised he would alter his view. Had he seen for himself the conditions under which the men employed at Washburn Valley were lodged and fed and worked, he would not have advanced the statements he had made that evening. He had examined on the spot the particular scheme which the hon. Member had criticised, and he could assure him that his statements were not warranted by the facts and the local labour men did not support his contention. The behaviour and conduct of some of the men at Washburn did not meet with the approval of either the distress committee or the general population of Leeds. He might say that Labour Leaders like Alderman Buckle and others heartily supported the views he gave utterance to on a previous occasion in differentiating between the honest men who were willing to work and those who were abusing the opportunity.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said he was not criticising the scheme but simply replying to the right hon. Gentleman's statement that these men had been offered work and had refused to do it.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that was just his point. The hon. Member approved the scheme and therefore, he assumed, shared the view with which it was started. He had supported the scheme, and without the help of the Local Government Board it could not have been initiated or carried on. So interested were the Local Government Board in the scheme that he went all over the watershed and after inspecting it made a grant of £1,000 as a first instalment. What was the objection to the scheme? None at all. The objection to the administration of the scheme did not rest solely with the local distress committee, because they were paying the unemployed two or three shillings per week more than the local rate of wages for forty-eight hours only, whereas the local hours varied from fifty-four to seventy hours per week. Therefore the distress committee were not to blame. The accommodation provided for the men was good, and the wages paid were above the local rate but not above the Leeds rate. Therefore everyone of the criticisms directed against the distress committee and himself were totally unfounded. The best answer to the criticism which had been made by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil was the report of a special Committee appointed to test the truth of the statement he made on the question when the matter was last discussed. The deputation was appointed by the Labour Representation Committee, and they went to the Washburn colony to investigate the matter on the spot. That deputation reported that the food was substantial and good, that the general accommodation was clean and good, and the work was neither difficult nor laborious. There was no evidence at all of bad treatment. He wished the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil would give the House instances to justify his supposition that the Local Government Board had refused to allow men to be trained. The hon. Member for North West Ham knew the facts, because he had visited the labour colony in which he was interested, and he wished other hon. Members who criticised the Local Government Board would first go and see the labour colonies they referred to. Consistently with his point of view, which he thought events would more than justify, he had done, as the hon. Member for North West Ham knew, for the inhabitants of the labour colonies everything the distress committees had asked him to do. He had been fair and even generous in the distribution of public money. He had helped the labour colony at Ockenden to carry out every one of the original intentions of its founders, and the original scheme had not been interfered with in any way. The hon. Member would probably ask, What about Hollesley Bay? The answer could best be given in figures. He might remind the House by the way that it was the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, and the Government of which he was a Member, who were the authors of the Hollesley Bay scheme. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil must not forget that. How could the hon. Member say that it was the Local Government Board and its unsympathetic officials who were responsible for establishing Hollesley Bay? How could it be said that they had restricted it in any way? There were 315 men there at the present moment, a larger number than there had ever been. They were doing their work under more favourable conditions than had prevailed there during the last two or three years, and the fact that £27,000 was voted last year for the maintenance of the colony and that there were now 315 men on it was a complete refutation of the suggestions that the work there had been interfered with or impaired. Perhaps the hon. Member referred to one restriction which he had imposed. He would not have been worthy of his office if he had not imposed it. An attempt was made to divert this interesting experiment from its original and proper purpose as defined by his predecessor and to convert it into too much of a training centre for skilled horticulturists and professional market gardeners. He refused to allow that, because a disproportionate amount of money would have been required for the purpose. They could not afford to spend money on that experiment at a colony which was established for other objects.

He refused to allow a small section of the committee to divert the colony from its original purpose, but he had kept the colony well supplied with funds. He believed the colony would go on much better if it had not false friends who did not go down to see it and did not make themselves acquainted with the facts by visits on the spot. With regard to Newport, he had gone into that case, and found that the amount of distress was not exceptional, and that in the immediate neighbourhood there was work on which men would be much better employed than on relief works. He preferred that Newport men should go into Wales rather than that public money should be spent on relief works, and that they should be anchored to those relief works, and so prevented from finding local work which he knew was beginning to be taken by men from Lancashire and other parts of the country. The question of Scotland had been raised. He was not directly responsible for the administration of the Act in Scotland. In conjunc-with the Chancellor of the Exchequer he consented to £10,000 being allocated for the purposes of the Act in Scotland, and he gathered that the farm colony project was being reconsidered by the Secretary for Scotland. Papers on the subject were now in the Scottish Office, and they were receiving consideration. The next point raised by the hon. Member for Merthyr was that the Government had not kept their promise to amend the Act. He told the House fifteen months ago, and again eight months ago, that pending the Report of the Poor Law Commission, whose business it was to see whether the Act should be renewed or not, the Government thought that the best thing to be done, especially as they had had no experience of the Act, was to provide the money and the means by which the Act might be carried along during its experimental period and while the subject was under the consideration of the Poor Law Commission. They therefore decided not to amend the Act, but to provide £200,000 with which to work the Act; and, so far, of that amount £106,000 had been disbursed. There was no single distress committee who had submitted to him a scheme of work, but had had as much money as was necessary for the purposes of that scheme. All of them had at this moment a small balance in hand, and nearly all had refused to use their rating power to the extent they ought to have done, in order to bring local activities into relationship with Imperial help. He could only say that, so far as the amendment of the Act was concerned, it was infinitely better that they should do as they did than that they should amend the Act. As to the two or three questions which were now put to the men and which were thought to be irritating, the simple answer was that the questions were drafted on the basis of those of the Battersea Labour Bureau and the West Ham Labour Bureau. At both those places labouring men were responsible for the drafting of the questions, and the only sense in which they did not resemble the questions of the Local Government Board was that those authorised by the Board were smaller in number. He got a copy of the West Ham questions sent to him fifteen months ago, and his Department cut out some of them, so that they might not be vexatious or irritating at all. The hon. Member for West Ham said that nothing was being done. Was it fair to say that when only last week there were from 14,000 to 16,000 men at work on relief works or farm colonies by means of this fund? Was it fair to say that nothing was being done in London when this week nearly 8,000 men were being employed in the London district on work secured to them by this fund or out of the rates? It was not fair. There were 2,500 men at work in the London parks, and the London district had 8,000 men at work at this moment. Of the £85,000 voted for England and Wales out of this fund, London and district had had £71,000, and of that amount West Ham had had £25,000. Those figures did not sustain the view that the district committees had not been supported. The hon. Member for North-East Manchester wanted to know what the Local Government Board were doing with regard to the farm colony project put forward by the Manchester Distress Committee. On 12th October that committee received a circular from him saying that if they wished to apply for money they were entitled to do so. He received evidence of the fact that there were no local subscriptions and that no scheme was submitted, and it was not until 25th

February—four and a quarter months after the circular was sent saying there was money for them if they wished it—that a scheme was submitted. The scheme submitted by the committee of that big city was not one that would give 1,000 or 1,500 men work in or near the city, but one for the employment of twelve men at Chat Moss, seventeen miles from Manchester. He put it to the House fairly and squarely, ought he to have adopted such a scheme from a city like Manchester? They made no efforts to secure subscriptions, and they would not give him plans or specifications for the employment of their local unemployed. The scheme which they submitted four months after receiving the circular was one which under the circumstances would have meant a deficit of anything from £300 to £600 in the first year. That was his answer to the hon. Member for North East Manchester. The hon. Member did him the honour of quoting some of his earlier speeches. He wished that hon. Members who quoted him would take the trouble to bring the speeches with them, and especially when they quoted him in regard to labour colonies. [AN HON. MEMBER: We shall be glad to oblige you.] If the hon. Member lived as long as he had done, he would find it not only politic, but absolutely necessary, to revise some of the views he expressed in his own salad days. In fact he was convinced that outside critics were already directing against the hon. Member the same kind of criticism now that he was a responsible Member of that House. He sympathised with the hon. Member in his trouble, and assured him that if he wanted useful support he would be delighted to render to him that help which one day, he was sure, he would need. The hon. Member for North East Manchester had said that his utterances to-day on this and kindred subjects were in marked contrast to what he had said twenty years ago. This was what he said twenty years ago, and he invited the attention of the hon. Gentleman to it, for that hon. Gentleman owed him some reparation, and probably an apology for his remarks—

> "The labour colony as a remedy for the unemployed is, I maintain, foredoomed to failure, and is nothing but the revival in another form of the hated casual ward with all its physical and moral iniquities. [Labour cries of 'No, no.'] If municipalisation of agriculture is intended, that is something I can understand; but that for years is not likely to prove a remedy for the workless. Rather will it come after easier things have been undertaken and accomplished, the abolition of over-work, the reduction of the hours of labour, and the reorganisation of labour in every trade, that is now going on—too slowly, I admit—in the right direction by trade union, municipal, and Parliamentary action. [Renewed Labour cries of 'No, no.']."

Well, that was his view; and he was in the position of a critic now. Some hon. Members opposite had brushed aside those views for new-fangled ideas in regard to labour colonies. And then he went on to say—

> "Should the municipalisation of agriculture be undertaken on Socialist lines, its initial stage must be conducted, not by the unskilled unemployed, plus an in-and-out army of loafers, casuals, and wastrels, but by the best of labour attracted by those better conditions which would accompany such an undertaking started by people with brains, along the lines followed by the London County Council in doing its own work."

He commended that to the attention of the hon. Member for North Salford. What he had said he had said. What he had pressed twenty years ago, he had repeated *ad nauseam* since. He made this prediction, that when nine-tenths of the schemes which the hon. Member for Merthyr was pressing upon too credulous workmen had proved to be costly, wasteful, dangerous, morally mischievous, and economically unsound, then the hon. Member would want him to help him out of the difficulty in which he would unquestionably be placed, and as his life had been spent in helping lame dogs over stiles he would be happy to do it. The hon. Member for North West Ham—and here they were getting at the heart of the problem—had said that more efficiency was needed in the administration of the unemployed funds; but it was not more efficiency on the part of the Local Government Board, but on the part of the local distress committees themselves. As the hon. Member perfectly truly said, the distress committees had shewn in this matter the greatest incompetence. Few of them had done their work well, not even the Central Unemployed Body, of which the hon. Member for Merthyr was for some time a member. Why did not the hon. Member when he was a member of that body direct their footsteps in a proper path? And if the hon. Member tried and failed, why should he blame him now? He believed that greater efficiency was needed on the distress committees, and he agreed with the hon. Member for North West Ham that more elasticity was required in their procedure; but he could assure the House that there had been no lack of efficiency on the part of the Local Government Board. The hon. Member for North West Ham had said he would like to see emigration tried instead of farm colonies; but there had been a lot of adverse opinion expressed by Labour men in regard to that. There were, however, certain districts where the only remedy was emigration. West Ham, for instance, had a surplus of casual labourers, attracted there by the docks, but the more they kept pumping money from the rest of England into West Ham, the more they would accentuate the local problem there by attracting men from all over the country. The hon Member for Merthyr had no answer to that except emigration.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Oh yes.

*MR. JOHN BURNS: But when I gave £10,000 for emigration, I was condemned.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: My answer is, migrate to Essex, not emigrate to Canada.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that his answer to that was that if such migration could be done under the Small Holdings Bill that was promised this session, no one would welcome it more than he would. But to attempt to migrate the type of men that they had in West Ham to Essex this year was to try to do the impossible. There was no better authority than the hon. Member for South West Ham on that point. That hon. Gentleman was asked in Committee—

> "But you do not believe in taking persons unaccustomed to agricultural work and finding it profitable or advantageous to put them to that work?"

And the answer was—

> "No, I think it is useless, and I do not think it is a sound policy at all."

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.) said that there were any number of men in West Ham who had been used to agricultural work.

*MR. JOHN BURNS: Yes, but when they sent those men to Hollesley Bay or other farm colonies, the attraction of home was so great that when they had been there two, three, or four months, they returned to West Ham. But if the same men were sent out to a place like Canada, which was 3,000 miles away, and where a return was made difficult and almost impossible, they cut themselves morally and physically and industrially away from their environment, and put themselves on a new plane of life, as thousands of them had done. He would be only to pleased to assist any scheme which would enable that type of man to get on his feet again in England; but of all the money he had granted to West Ham none would do so much good for the people there as the £5,000 given to the West Ham Committee for emigration. Hon. Members who criticised his Department wanted him to undertake a large national scheme of relief works for which a million of money would be voted by Parliament each year. He positively refused to adopt any such suggestion. He would rather resign his portfolio than do so.

MR. THORNE: Has any hon. Member advocated that a million should be granted for such a purpose?

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that if the hon. Member would refer to certain Labour papers he would see that a million had been suggested over and over again; and perhaps if he read those papers less regularly it would be better for his mental health. To grant a million of money for farm colonies would, he believed, be a financial blunder, and he would not undertake to defend it. At the same time he was prepared to give all the time that a man reasonably could do to endeavour to solve the problem of helping the distress committees. As for labour colonies for the genuine, honest unemployed, they did not want them. What might possibly emerge was a system of industrial training homes for the unemployable, and vagrant colonies for those who would not work; but when farm colonies for the unemployed were mentioned he could only say that nine-tenths of the criticism which had been levelled against him should have been directed against the local distress committees. He asserted that no distress committee had been refused money who had submitted to him a practical scheme of work. Nearly all such committees had balances in hand, and during the summer time he would lay hold of the question, and see if they could not do something even better than they had already done. He must say, however, that, but for the rigour and discipline and the wise restrictions that he had imposed upon these distress committees, the whole machinery of the Act would have broken down. That it had not broken down was not due to hon. Members who criticised him, but rather to the Minister who had done his best to make that experiment as great a success as events, he hoped, would prove it to be.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said the speech of the right hon. Gentleman had opened up not only the main question raised by hon. Members below the gangway, but also an immense number of other questions, which it was quite impossible to discuss in the time remaining to the House. He hoped, therefore, the Government would arrange that the Vote for the Local Government Board should be put down on an early date after Easter, in order that they might have an opportunity of discussing these questions.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) intimated that whatever supply was desired by the Chief Opposition Whip would be put down.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was satisfied with that assurance. The right hon. Gentleman had swept away the charges which had been levelled against him from below the gangway, and he was not going to step into the interesting conflict between him and his friends. He agreed largely with the general statement of the right hon. Gentleman, but he did not wonder that any one who sat in the last Parliament and was interested in the administration of this Act should have attacked him and his Government for the part they had taken, because he remembered that when the late Government endeavoured to set up the machinery which they believed to be essential if they were to deal properly with the unemployed question, their efforts were met with contempt and scorn by every Member of the present Government who spoke in those debates. The measure was described as ridiculous, absolutely worthless, and only what might have been expected from such a Government. Now, in the second year of its existence, they had the President of the Local Government Board spending a considerable amount of time in defending the scheme, in pleading that he should not be called on to amend it, and in resting himself very largely on the work that had been done under that scheme, and which could not have been done without it.

*MR. JOHN BURNS: No, no. You provided no money.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was true that no money was provided out of the Imperial Exchequer, but, if it was true that the whole of the work that had been done had been covered by the sum of £200,000, it was equally true that it could not have been done without the machinery established by the late Government. He thought there was a good deal to be said with reference to the right hon. Gentleman's criticism of the Hollesley Bay scheme. It was a great experiment, but he was sure that it was one of the directions in which they must look if they were going to deal with one class of the unemployed that demanded, almost, some assistance. They were more likely in market gardening, or some occupation of that kind, rather than in any general kind of land cultivation, to find a method not merely of providing work for the moment, to which he did not attach so much importance, but of providing that sort of work which would leave a man at the end of it better able to make a living for himself.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) rose to continue the debate, but,

MR. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising, this day, do adjourn until Monday the 8th April.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. WHITELEY moved, "That this House do now adjourn."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Whiteley*).

MR. BOWLES pointed out that he had a Resolution of some importance on the Paper for a quarter past eight o'clock, and, if the Motion were persisted in, it would deprive him of the opportunity of moving it.

MR. WHITELEY said that, if the hon. Gentleman particularly wished to bring on his Motion, he would withdraw his, but he thought it was the desire of the House that they should separate as early as possible.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair at twelve minutes past Eight o'clock, there being no other Government business before the House, and the sitting was suspended till a quarter past Eight.

OBSTRUCTIVE MOTIONS AND BILLS.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) in moving, "That to put a Motion on the Order Paper of this House, or to introduce a Bill, so as to prevent discussion in this House, of Motions for which precedence has been obtained in the ballot or of definite matters of urgent public importance, is hurtful to the usefulness of this House and an infringement of the rights of its Members," said that he brought the matter forward with some diffidence because he was a comparatively new Member, and the rules and orders of the House could only be approached by even the oldest Members with the greatest possible deference and respect. His point, however, was a clear and simple one, and one for which no very deep or abstruse knowledge was required. He believed the object he had in view was one that commended itself to a large majority of the House. If ever a Motion of the kind was justified at any time, that time was surely now. He was abundantly justified, not only by that fact itself, but by what had taken place during the last few days. His Motion was directed against all Bills and Motions which were put down upon the Order Paper with the object of preventing the House of Commons from discussing either matters for which precedence had been obtained in the Ballot or definite questions of urgent public importance. He himself recently discovered a matter which he certainly considered to be of considerable public importance. He put a Question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the matter, and received an Answer which was very full, and so far as it went satisfactory, but containing admissions which, to him at all events, seemed to raise a definite matter of urgent public importance. The decision as to whether that was so or not of course did not rest with him, but with Mr. Speaker. But it seemed to him that that was exactly the kind of thing for which the rule for raising a discussion on a Motion for the adjournment of the House was instituted, and one as to which the House of Commons, if it was to be a really vigilant force in these matters, ought to have had an opportunity of discussing at once on such a Motion. His complaint was that an hon. Member who took perhaps not the faintest interest in a particular matter, who desired only that a discussion should not take place, should, by putting a Motion on the Order Paper, which he had no desire to move, and which he did not intend to move, be able to prevent that matter being discussed. Such a practice, in his opinion, was an abuse of the Rules of Parliament and an interference with the rights of every Member of the House. So much for Motions. But the case with regard to Bills was infinitely stronger. The House would remember the considered ruling given by Mr. Speaker on the previous Monday in the case of the hon. Member for Westmoreland. That point had never arisen before, and on that occasion it was laid down by Mr. Speaker that under the new Rules of Procedure introduced in the last Parliament there was hidden, unseen until last Monday, the enormously important fact that it was possible for any Member of the House, by assuming to introduce a purely fictitious Bill—a Bill that did not exist and was never intended to exist—by writing three lines on a piece of paper and handing it to the clerk at the Table, to prevent the House from even contemplating, still less discussing, definite matters of urgent public importance which he desired should not be discussed. Let the House take the case immediately before them. On the 13th of March the hon. Member for the Bosworth Division drew the first place in the Ballot for that evening and the hon. Member for Melton drew the second place. If the ballot was not a mere useless piece of absurdity, a mere empty shadow and form, those two hon. Members had the first and second claim on the attention of the House. But two hon. Members had introduced Bills, in this case substantial Bills dealing with the subjects of the Motions put down by those hon. Members, and in consequence those hon. Gentlemen who had drawn the first and second places respectively had been deprived of the opportunities which they had obtained in the ballot, whilst he himself was now addressing the House on a Motion which had never been balloted for and was not even contemplated before the ruling given by Mr. Speaker on the previous Monday, and which was only put upon the Paper last night at a moment's notice. He submitted that such procedure as that rendered the House and its procedure mere empty and ridiculous forms, and he had no hesitation in suggesting that the House should agree to the Motion he would move. He would watch with interest the attitude of the Government upon the matter, because he recognised that the practice was not a new one. Motions had been put down in former Parliaments to block discussions. What he desired to emphasise was that blocking Motions under the old *régime* were very different from those of the present, in view of the ruling of Mr. Speaker. He wished the House and the Government to realise that it was in his power to put down a Bill to block any discussion. If he himself, for instance, brought in a Bill for the repeal of the sugar duties, the position of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he came to discuss his Budget would be a very difficult one. The position, owing to Mr. Speaker's ruling, was entirely different from what it was in the past, and the House by refusing this Motion, and refusing thereby to free itself from these new shackles which had been placed upon its procedure, would make the work of the Government and the House one of extreme difficulty and complication. He moved.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle), in seconding the Motion, said that it seemed to be the irony of fate that this Motion should have been moved by a new Member above the gangway. He remembered so well the difficulty the House was placed in in the time of the late Parliament by blocking Motions being placed upon the Paper. In the last session or two of the late Parliament it was absolutely impossible to discuss several most important questions because, as it was suggested, by arrangement with the then Government, notices of Motion had been put down to block discussion. Now one of the younger Members of the official opposition found that somebody else had learned the old practice and what was more important, had extended it. In those days the practice was adopted to prevent discussions which might be inconvenient to the Government, but recently it had been adopted to the detriment of the privileges of the private Member. If there was any further encroachment on private Members' rights they would be reduced to the level of voting machines. He sincerely hoped that the Government would give sympathetic consideration to the Motion of the hon. Member for Norwood. He had himself put a question on the Paper to the Prime Minister on the subject which he would ask the first day after the recess. What he suggested was that the Government, while they were considering procedure, should make themselves responsible for an amendment of the Standing Order which would make these encroachments on private Members' rights absolutely impossible. On the Labour Benches they naturally felt this matter very much. They availed themselves of the ballot and took every opportunity they could to raise questions in which they as a Party were peculiarly interested. He was pleased that they had had a bit of luck in the ballot, and they had tabled Motions which might in some quarters be regarded as inconvenient, but which it was their duty to submit. It might be that somebody would get the tip. He did not think that the Patronage Secretary would be guilty—he had admitted yesterday that he had been guilty of jesting—of trying to rob hon. Members on those benches of an opportunity to discuss one of those inconvenient Motions. But at any rate he was not prepared to go so far as to trust him or anybody else who occupied that position. He would rather have it in the Standing Order that such a thing could not be done. Therefore he hoped sincerely that the spokesman on behalf of the Government would recognise the fairness of the Motion and the justice of the claim advanced in the interests of private Members, and see their way to accept it.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That to put a Motion on the Order Paper of this House, or to introduce a Bill, so as to prevent discussion in this House of Motions for which procedence has been obtained in the ballot, or of definite matters of urgent public importance, is hurtful to the usefulness of this House and an infringement of the rights of its Members."—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E) said he had not changed his view on this subject since he had changed his seat from the opposite side of the House. It was one of the great grievances under which at any rate they imagined they suffered in the late Parliament, that there was this almost perpetual blocking out from free discussion of almost every subject of the greatest urgency. He could not help feeling that there was great abuse in the practice, and he was in hearty sympathy with the object of the hon. Member opposite. But he was bound to say that since this new Parliament had assembled, the old system, subject as it was to very great abuse, had been supplemented by a practice which was still more objectionable, and of which, as the hon. Gentleman had very properly remarked, they had illustrations only last week. He saw the noble Lord opposite, and he was not in the least surprised that he should have followed the example which had been set, and shown that two could play at the game, and that everybody suffered from it. Whether they looked at the practice in the more restricted form, as seen in the late Parliament, or the more amplified and dangerous form as seen under the new rules, he thought that in the interests of free discussion and the dignity of the House of Commons it was high time that they got rid of the evil which had been complained of. It was not very easy to say what form precisely the remedy should take, because it was quite obvious that so long as a Member could get up in the afternoon and give notice to move the adjournment of the House, and occupy hours of a sitting, that was a practice which was quite as bad and quite as hostile to the best interests of the House as the one which they were now condemning. Whatever remedy they might devise they must take care not to introduce another practice which was equally prejudicial and equally inconvenient to the House. Subject to that qualification, he thought that in a matter of this kind whatever was proposed should be by general consent of both sides of the House, and that it should not be a matter of controversial discussion between the two sides, or between the various sections of the House. With that qualification, he was very glad on behalf of the Government to assent to the Motion, and he hoped that it would be carried unanimously.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that after the most excellent speech of his right hon. friend he had only one word to add, and it was to express the hope that hon. Members would observe the practice which had hitherto prevailed with regard to Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and indeed prevailed up to that moment. It had been the custom for even Members who were opposed to a particular Motion to take their Bill off in order to permit of the discussion taking place. He had never known of an instance in which there had been a failure to take the Bill off temporarily in order to allow of a Motion coming on for discussion. Pending any action by the Government, he hoped that Members on each side of the House would continue that practice and prevent the expedient by which a single Member was enabled to reverse its operation. The matter had become more acute since the adoption of the new method of bringing in Bills without any need to express an opinion upon them. New Members who came in had every right to be heard in the House by raising questions in which they were interested;

and the Labour Party and the Irish Party, who were in the minority, had a claim on the good feeling of the House to prevent their Motions from being blocked by the action of a single Member. Therefore it was that he addressed this one word of appeal to his colleagues in the House to co-operate in arriving at a uniform understanding.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, E.) said he did not rise in any way to oppose the Motion; he would rather like to see its scope extended so as to take in Motions for Adjournment. He had a poignant memory of the last Parliament, when, after years of waiting, he won a fortunate position in the ballot. When his Motion came on, the Adjournment of the House was moved by an hon. Member below the gangway on a purely frivolous question, as it turned out, and thus the discussion for which he had waited for years was prevented. If the Government could see their way to deal with the whole question, and also to protect private Members' rights, as affected by Motions for Adjournment, he thought they would do a real service.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he was glad that the right hon. Gentle man had rightly interpreted his motive. He was very sorry to stand in the way of the hon. Member for Bolton, but he had pointed a moral if he had not adorned a tale. He quite agreed with the right hon. Baronet that they should revert to the old practice of an honourable understanding, but he thought they must put in this *caveat*: the Government, he understood, were going to take action in the matter, and the action must be by way of standing order or sessional order; he did not think that anything short of that would do. If they proceeded promptly, well and good; if they did not, he for one could not regard himself as bound by any honourable understanding. He regarded this as a question of vital importance to be dealt with at once. As to Motions for adjournment in respect of questions of urgent public importance, he regarded that practice as the one hold which the House had on the Government under present conditions. It was the one means by which they could bring the Government to book promptly. As long as they kept within reasonable limits it was really one of the privileges which the House had, and which should not be parted with. He agreed that they did not want to go back to the old condition of things when there were Motions almost every day on more or less frivolous grounds. Under the ruling of Mr. Speaker, however, both this and last session, there was no fear of that happening. Mr. Speaker had ruled constantly that the matter of urgent public importance must be a matter of broad policy in the ordinary sense of the term, and not merely in a Parliamentary sense, and, therefore, as long as they were confined to that, he thought that it was a privilege they ought not to lose. He felt strongly that the academic Motions which were discussed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays did not achieve anything except to show how hon. Members voted on particular questions. Let the House take such a Motion as that which had been blocked that evening. Whatever view they might take of it, still it was desirable that the House should arrive at a decision upon it. They had debated a definite Bill for four or five hours, and it was very desirable that the country should know which hon. Members were in favour of woman suffrage and which were against it. He thought it a very unfortunate circumstance that, owing to the extraordinary rules of the House, the Motion could not be brought on. He only trusted that the Government would take the matter up seriously and introduce a Standing Order or a Sessional Order, because it lay entirely with them; nobody else could do it, and unless they did it, it would not be done at all.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland) heartily supported the Resolution. It had always appeared to him to be a monstrous thing that any one hon. Member could stultify the desire of the House to discuss a particular question The smallest and most obscure institution in the country would not allow itself to be so stultified. He quite agreed that something would have to be done to prevent unnecessary adjournments of the House. He hoped the Government in dealing with the procedure rules would provide against a repetition of what had happened this session and other sessions. All parties were agreed that some remedy should be found.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) asked if they could not now come to the honourable understanding to which the noble Lord had referred. The noble Lord had said he would agree to any scheme the Government might produce on the subject, but he entered a caveat that he could not agree to an honourable understanding that Motions for adjournment should in any way be interfered with. Surely they might agree that they would not introduce Bills in order to block private Members' Motions for which precedence had been obtained in the ballot.

LORD R. CECIL said that, as far as he was concerned, if the Government produced a Standing Order to carry out what they all desired he would not oppose it; but if the production of the Standing Order was postponed to the end of the discussion on procedure they could not take out of their hands the weapon which had been given to them in order to put pressure upon the Government.

MAJOR SEELY thought they were all agreed that the right of private Members for Motions on Wednesdays until Whitsuntide should be respected by agreement on both sides of the House, whilst the question of adjournments remained undecided.

LORD R. CECIL said he could not enter into any such agreement unless the Government produced their Standing Order with due promptitude.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That to put a Motion on the Order Paper of this House, or to introduce a Bill, so as to prevent discussion in this House of Motions for which precedence has been obtained in the ballot or of definite matters of urgent public importance, is hurtful to the usefulness of this House and an infringement of the rights of its Members.—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer,*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at eight minutes before Nine o'clock till Monday 8th April.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

ESTIMATES FOR CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS, 1907–8.

MEMORANDUM BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

I.—CIVIL SERVICES.

1. The net total of the Estimates for Civil Services for 1907–8 is 30,107,043*l.* The net total of the original Estimates for 1906–7 was 29,316,629*l.* The increase is therefore 790,405*l.*

2. In the following Abstract and throughout the detailed Estimates comparison is made, according to usual practice with the total grants made for the service of the year 1906–7 in the Session of 1906. Thus the figures for 1906–7 comprise, in addition to the original Estimates for the year, Supplementary Estimates to the amount of 443,558*l.*, which were presented in the summer of 1906. The result is a net total for 1906–7 of 29,760,187*l.*, and on this basis of comparison the Estimates for 1907–8 show an increase of 346,847*l.*

3. The number of Votes is 104, being one more than the original number for 1906–7, an additional Vote appearing in Class I. for the Memorial to the late Lord Salisbury.

CLASS I.

4. The total sum required under Public Works and Buildings is 2,863,132*l.*, being an increase of 72,852*l.* on the amount voted in 1906. Of this increase the largest item is under Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens, where an increase of 34,500*l.* occurs, due mainly to the cost of wood paving and certain proposed alterations of Constitution Hill, and to the increases which have been made in the wages of foremen and labourers employed in the Parks. Under Miscellaneous Legal Buildings there is an increase of 11,800*l.*, owing to the growth of County Court business and the necessity for more accommodation. Under Art and Science Buildings provision is included in " Maintenance " for cleaning and re-painting the Reading Room of the British Museum at an estimated cast of 6,150*l.* An estimate of 2,100*l.* is presented to defray the cost of a Memorial to the late Right Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury in accordance with the Resolution of the House of Commons of the 18th May, 1904. Under Public Buildings, Great Britain, there is a net decrease of 4,000*l.* as the result mainly of the large decrease of 20,373*l.* for Rents, which may be set against the increase of 10,510*l.* for Annuities under the several Buildings Acts specified in the estimate. In the same estimate a sum of 5,000*l* is included, on account, towards the proposed extension of the National Gallery, and the provision, under " Maintenance," for the Protection and Repair of Ancient Monuments has been increased from 12,510*l.* to 16,155*l.*

5. The amount provided under the Harbours estimate depends to some extent on the amount payable within the year under the terms of the grants. A grant of 15,000*l* in aid of the improvement of Southwold Harbour is expected to be payable in full in the ensuing financial year, and the estimate shows a net increase of 11,134*l.*

APPENDIX I.

CLASS II.

6. The total Estimate under this Class (Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments) is 2,881,832*l.*, being an increase of 134,547*l.* on the amount voted (including a Supplementary Grant of 1,000*l.* for the Valuation and Boundary Survey of Ireland) in the Session of 1906. The increase, which is exceptionally large for this Class, is accounted for under the following principal heads.

7. Under House of Lords Offices and House of Commons Offices a decrease of 17,550*l.* is anticipated in fees, owing to there being a smaller number of Private Bills in the present Session of Parliament, and an increased provision of 1,600*l.* is made under House of Commons Offices for Committee Expenses and for Shorthand Writers.

8. The estimate for the Home Office shows a net increase of 8,650*l.*, which is accounted for by increases in the staff of the Office and in the Factory Inspectorate to meet new requirements, by a larger provision for Inquiries, and by provision for new business, which arises under the Workmen's Compensation Act and, to some extent, under Notice of Accidents Act of last Session.

9. A sum of 6,000*l.* has been provided under Colonial Office for expenses in connection with the Colonial Confeerence.

10. The Board of Trade Estimate shows a net increase of 29,111*l.* The estimate includes a special provision of 10,118*l.* under Subhead P. (Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department) for the Census of Production; 4,400*l.* more is provided for other Special Inquiries; and the total of the Subhead shows an increase of 16,965*l.* The growth of business in the Patent Office, as a result of the Patents Act of 1902 continues to make large demands for additional staff, and Subhead U. shows in consequence an increase of 11,254*l.* It may be expected, however, that this expenditure will be covered to a considerable extent by fees as shown under estimated Extra Receipts. Under the Mercantile Marine Service estimate provision of 4,000*l.* is made for expenses under the Merchant Shipping Act of last Session, and the estimate shows a net increase of 2,943*l.* The increase of 2,000*l* under the estimate for the Bankruptcy Department is due to a re-arrangement, which is explained in the note on the face of the estimate.

11. Of the increase of 7,505*l.* under Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 3,000*l.* is due to a revision of the allocation between Great Britain and Ireland of the statutory grant of 50,000*l.* for the suppression of Swine Fever under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, and the remainder is accounted for under the various heads of normal expenditure. The increase of 16,573*l.* under Stationery Office is due in part to the increase of business in the Public Departments, including Temporary Commissions and in part to the difficulty of estimating for the requirements of the Session of Parliament. The Office of Works Estimate shows an increase of 7,318*l.* owing to the necessity for more staff, and particularly draughtsmen, to cope with the building requirements of the Post Office, National Gallery Extension, and various other works.

12. Under the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland, there is a net increase of 13,671*l.*, owing to increases of staff, etc., and particularly to the large increase which is anticipated in the grants which will become payable in the course of the year, under approved regulations, to Schools of Science and Art and Day Secondary Schools (Subheads H. 1 and H. 3). The Labourers (Ireland) Act of last Session accounts in the main for the increase of 12,845*l.* under the estimate for the Irish Local Government Board.

13. The estimate for the Exchequer and Audit Department shows a new arrangement under which the Colonial Audit Staff at Headquarters is for the first time placed on the estimate, the cost being recouped by the Colonies (Sub-head D., Appropriations in Aid).

Class III.

14. The total sum required under the head of Law and Justice is 3,922,426*l.*, being a net increase of 33,532*l.* on the total for 1906–7. There is an increase of 13,128*l.* in the estimate for Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain, due principally to certain increased grants which are proposed as the result of a recent inquiry by a Committee. The estimate for the Irish Land Commission shows an increase of 24,835*l.*, and under Royal Irish Constabulary there is a net increase of 11,461*l.*, which is due to the exceptionally large number of retirements at the present time of members of the Force who have completed their service for pension.

15. Against the foregoing increases may be set the decreases shown in the tabular statement, the principal items being 4,789*l.* under Land Registry, as the result to economies which are being effected in the working of that Department, and 6,650*l.* under Prisons, England and the Colonies.

Class IV.

16. For education, Science, and Art the total Estimate is 17,495,237*l.*, being an increase of 316,955*l.* on the amount voted (including a Supplementary Grant of 200,000*l.*) in 1906. If comparison be made with the original Estimates for 1906–7 the increase is 516,955*l.*, following on an increase of 651,117 in the preceding year.

17. The estimate for the Board of Education shows an increase of 254,046*l.* The figures for 1906–7 include a Supplementary Grant of 200,000*l.* which was voted in July, 1906. On a comparison therefore with the original estimate the increase is 454,046*l.* Of this sum, 233,046*l.* represents the growth of expenditure in respect of grants payable under approved regulations, increases of staff, increments of salaries, &c.; 51,000*l.* is for increased grants which are proposed towards expenditure on Secondary Schools and the training of Pupil Teachers (now merged in one Subhead, E 1); 70,000*l.* is for Building Grants for Local Authorities' Training Colleges; and 100,000*l.* is a special provision which will enable the Board, as and when occasion requires and within the limits of this sum, to furnish the means for providing a Public Elementary School in cases where the only existing school accommodation is wholly of a denominational character and a strong demand is made by the parents for an undenominational school.

18. Provision has been made in the estimate for two new Posts (Permanent) Secretary of the Welsh Department, and Chief Inspector of the Welsh Departments in connection with the detaching of a certain portion of the existing staff of the Board of Education to be formed into a new department for the administration of Education in Wales.

19. Under Public Education, Scotland, there is an increase of 50,426*l.* The estimate includes a new provision of 26,500*l.* under Subhead M. for grants towards expenditure on Secondary Education. The balance of the increase under this Subhead is due to the development of the organisation of Central Institutions and of Courses under the Continuation Code. Under Subhead E., Annual Grants for Day Scholars, the increase shown is due chiefly to normal growth in the average attendance, and in some degree to a still somewhat exceptionally large increase in the attendance of older children who earn the higher rates of grant. The increase under Subhead O., Grants for Traniing of Teachers, is due mainly to a large increase in the number of students under training.

20. The estimate for Public Education, Ireland, shows a net increase of 15,137*l.*, which includes a sum of 2,000*l.* for maintenance and travelling allowances to Junior Assistant Mistresses attending Training Classes. An additional sum of 10,000*l.* is made available from the Ireland Development Grant for providing Assistant Mistresses to all Schools with an average attendance of from 35 to 50 scholars.

21. The National Galleries, Scotland, estimate has been prepared under the new conditions established by the National Galleries of Scotland Act, 1906. The Galleries have hitherto been under the management of the Board of Manufactures, who received an annuity of 2,000*l.* under the Treaty of Union, and a Grant in aid, which in 1906–7, amounted to 3,768*l.* The Act of 1906 establishes a Board of Trustees for the management of the Galleries, and charges the annuity of 2,000*l.*, which is made payable to them, on the Consolidated Fund, and the costs of administration of the Galleries, including the maintenance of the buildings, on Votes.

CLASS V.

22. The Estimates for Foreign and Colonial Services amount to 1,798,715*l.*, and show a net decrease of 75,190*l.*; or, if the estimate for the Treasury Chest Fund be deducted (a service for which the necessary provision cannot be determined till after the close of the financial year), the decrease on the original Estimates of 1906–7 is 60,590*l.* Under Diplomatic and Consular Services there is an increase of 15,484*l.*, due principally to developments in the Consular Service, to the increased provision under Subhead P., Special Services, &c., and to a larger sum being payable under Subhead LL. to the Government of India. Colonial Services show a decrease of 70,353*l.* owing to a diminution in the amounts required for the Grants in Aid of Local Revenues. For Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable the provision required is less by 27,721*l.*, owing to the cessation of a subsidy to the African Direct Telegraph Company and to an improvement in the earnings of the Pacific Cable. A grant of 50,000*l.* has been provided in aid of the revenues of Cyprus, as against 28,000*l.* in the previous year, and it is proposed that a grant at this rate shall be continued for three years from 1907–8 inclusive.

CLASS VI.

23. The estimate of 145,940*l.* which appears in this Class (Non-effective and Charitable Services) to make good deficiences on the income accounts of the funds for Savings Banks and Friendly Societies shows a net increase of 23,296*l.* on the corresponding Vote for 1906–7. This is accounted for, as stated in the note to the estimate, by an alteration which has been made in the period of account whereby provision must be made for thirteen months' salaries in the Post Office Savings Bank Department in the year 1907–8. There is a net increase of 37,652*l.* on the total of the Class.

CLASS VII.

24. Miscellaneous Estimates show a net decrease of 173,501*l.*, owing to the non-recurrence of the grants for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, and for expenses under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, which were voted in July, 1906. The large number of Royal Commissions and Committees which are at present sitting necessitate an increase in the estimate for Temporary Commissions from 47,000*l.* to 64,000*l.* A special grant of 33,000*l.* is proposed in the estimate for Miscellaneous Expenses in aid of the purchase by the Corporation of Waterford of a bridge in that city.

An estimate for Repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund will be presented as usual later in the Session, if necessary, when the amount to be made good to the Fund has been ascertained.

II.—REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

25. The net total of the Estimates for the Revenue Departments is 20,625,751*l.*, being an increase of 666,810*l.* on the total for 1906–7.

26. The estimate for Customs shows a net increase of 6,000*l.*, which is due to increments of salary and other expenditure after allowance has been made for savings which will result from the abolition of the Coal Duty. The Inland Revenue estimate shows a net increase of 39,800*l.*, a considerable proportion of which is due to the arrangements made in preparation for the Quinquennial Assessment in the year 1908-9. On this account an increased provision of 20,000*l.* becomes necessary under Sub head N. for the cost of the Copies of Poor Rates, and a sum of 5,000*l.* is included under Subhead A., for extra clerical assistance required by the Surveyors of Taxes. Additional provision is also required for Commuted Allowances to Clerks to Commissioners and to Collectors and Assessors of Taxes (Sub heads D. and E.) to meet the growth of business.

27. The estimate for the Post Office shows a net increase of 621,010*l.*, made up as follows :—

Postal Services - - - -	Increase	411,371*l.*
Packet Services - - - -	Decrease	26,570*l.*
Telegraph Services - - - -	Increase	236,209*l.*
	Net Increase	621,010*l.*

28. The increase under "Postal Services" is mainly due to causes incidental to the expansion of business, viz : increments in salaries and wages, growth of staff and superannuation charges. Provision is also made for taking over from the Gibraltar Government the Colonial Post Office Agencies maintained in Morocco, and for the establishment of new Agencies of the Imperial Post Office at other towns in that Country.

29. As regards Packet Services, a reduced subsidy is payable to the Peninsular and Oriental Company in consequence of the extension of their Contract to 1912 and as the reduction in the subsidy dates back to February 1st, 1905, there results a saving of 79,000*l.*, less 20,650*l.*, the consequent reduction in the contribution by India and the Eastern Colonies in aid of the service. On the other hand, owing to the renewal of the contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at the old subsidy (60,000*l.*) there is an increase of 43,000*l.* less 11,250*l.*, the increase in the contribution by Canada towards the cost of the service. In 1906–7, only 17,000*l.* was provided for this service, although the full amount of the subsidy was eventually paid out of savings under other Subheads of the Vote. One-fourth of the cost is repaid by the Dominion of Canada.

30. Of the increase under "Telegraph Services," 99,923*l.* is on account of the terminable Annuities issued in repayment of loans on Telephone Capital Account, the balance being mainly due to increments in salaries and wages, growth of staff and extension of the Telephone System. Provision is also made for the maintenance of the Glasgow and Brighton Corporation Telephone Systems recently acquired by the Postmaster-General.

31. In accordance with the recommendations of an Inter-Departmental Committee, the Telegraph proportion of the expenses common to the Postal and Telegraph Services is further reduced to 23 per cent. in 1907–8 as against 23½ per cent. in the previous year.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers,
26th February, 1907.

WALTER RUNCIMAN.

APPENDIX II.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLXXI.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) House of Lords.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Army Annual	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Read 1^{a} 26th March (1619)
Companies [H.L.]	*Earl of Granard*	Read 2^{a} 14th March (164)
Consolidated Fund (No. 1)		All Stages 21st March (1206) (1260) Royal Assent 2nd Mar. (1261)
*County Courts [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 2^{a} 14th March (176)
Dental Companies (Restrictions of Practice [H.L.]	*Lord Hylton*	Read 1^{a} 13th March (4)
*Destructive Insects and Pests [H.L.]	*Earl Carrington*	Read 1^{a} 21st March (1206)
*Judicature [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee 14th March (180) Report 18th March (410)
Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies [H.L.]	*Lord Hylton*	Read 1^{a} 13th March (4)
*Salmon — Fresh Water Fisheries [H.L.]	*Earl Carrington*	Read 1^{a} 21st March (1206)
*Statute Law Revision [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 1^{a} 18th March (409)

(B.) House of Commons.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress
Adult (Women and Men) Enfranchisement	*Lord R. Cecil*	Read 1^{o} 26th March (1675)
Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	Read 1^{o} 20th March (879)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Army Annual	*Mr. Haldane*	Read 1° 14th March (335) Read 2° 18th March (582) Committee 20th and 21st Mar. (1005) Report } 25th Mar. Read 3° and passed } (1613)
Building Lands (Scotland)	*Mr. R. M. Ferguson*	Read 1° 13th March (66)
Civil Bill Courts (Dublin)	*Mr. J. Gordon*	Read 1° 13th March (66)
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	*Mr. Asquith*	Read 1° 14th March (336) Read 2° 18th March (490) Committee } 19th March (776) Report } Read 3° and passed 20th March (964) Royal Assent 22nd Mar. (1261)
Crofters (Scotland)	*Mr. R. M. Ferguson*	Read 1° 14th March (256)
Dogs (Injuries to Persons)	*Mr. J. D. White*	Read 1° 20th March (879)
Education of Afflicted Children (Ireland)	*Mr. C. Craig*	Read 1° 13th March (66)
*Education (Scotland)	*Mr. Sinclair*	Read 1° 20th March (880)
Eight Hours	*Mr. Thorne*	Read 1° 25th March (1527)
Factory and Workshops Act (1901) Amendment	*Mr. C. Corbett*	Read 1° 18th March (490)
Ferries (Ireland)	*Mr. Gwynn*	Read 1° 20th March (879)
Financial and Commercial Gambling	*Mr. Bottomley*	Read 1° 18th March (489)
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities	*Mr. Dickinson*	Bill withdrawn 25th March (1616)
Irish Tobacco	*Mr. W. Redmond*	Read 2° 25th March (1616)
Licensed Premises (Election Days Closing)	*Mr. C. Roberts*	Second Reading (adjourned) 15th March (400)
Lights on Vehicles	*Major Renton*	Read 2° 15th March (381)
London Municipal Elections (Hours of Poll)	*Mr. Dickinson*	Read 1° 18th March (489)
Merchandise Marks	*Sir H. Vincent*	Read 2° 15th March (404)
*Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power)	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	Read 1° 25th March (1527)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Municipal Milk Depots	*Mr. Levy*	Read 1° 20th March (1675)
Parliamentary Elections (Hours of Poll)	*Mr. Pickersgill*	Read 1° 18th March (489)
Parochial Medical Officers (Scotland)	*Mr. J. C. Wason*	Read 1° 20th March (884)
*Patents and Designs	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	Read 1° 19th March (683)
*Probation of Offenders	*Mr. Gladstone*	Bill withdrawn 18th Mar. (582)
*Probation of Offenders (No. 2)	*Mr. Gladstone*	Read 1° 19th March (682)
Public Rights of Way	*Mr. J. R. Macdonald*	Read 1° 25th March (1528)
Railways (Contracts)	*Mr. Lambton*	Read 2° 15th March (344)
Railways, Mines, Canals, etc.	*Mr. Thorne*	Read 1° 25th March (1527)
Rating Appeals (Costs)	*Mr. Barnard*	Read 1° 19th March (683)
Regulations of Railways	*Mr. T. Davies*	Read 1° 25th March (1527)
Rights of Way (Scotland)	*Mr. Gulland*	Read 1° 19th March (682)
Saturday Closing of Public Houses	*Mr. Bottomley*	Read 1° 18th March (489)
*Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties)	*Mr. Sinclair*	Read 1° 27th March (1830)
*Sheriff Courts (Scotland)	*Mr. T. Shaw*	Read 1° 25th March (1528)
Small Holdings (No. 2)	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	Read 1° 19th March (683)
Small Holdings and Cottages	*Lord R. Cecil*	Read 1° 26th March (1675)
Small Landholders (Scotland)	*Mr. Sinclair*	Read 1° 19th March (687)
Trawlers' Regulations	*Mr. Morton*	Read 1° 18th March (489)
Trusts	*Mr. Rendall*	Read 1° 20th March (878)
Weights and Measures (Metric System)	*Mr. B. S. Straus*	Second Reading (defeated) 22nd March (1311)
*Whale Fisheries (Scotland)	*Mr. Sinclair*	Read 1° 27th March (1830)
Youthful Offenders	*Mr. Wedgwood*	Read 1° 18th March (489)

APPENDIX III.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1907.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in previous Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Urban Districts of Royton, Failsworth, Compton, Lees, Littleborough, and Milnrow [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	14 March	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of certain classes of Shops in the Burgh of Leith [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	18 March	40 days
Public Records, High Court of Justice (King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer),—Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the late Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, and the succeeding King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	19 March	4 weeks
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Jarrow, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the borough [4 Edw. VII,, c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	20 March	40 days
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Oriel College, Oxford on the 11th October, 1906 (and sealed on the 29th November 1906) amending Statute VI., Clause 5, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49]	20 March	12 weeks
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 1st December 1906 (and sealed on the 7th December 1906), amending Statute III., Clause 11, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49]	20 March	12 weeks
Court of Session (Scotland) Act, 1868,—Copy of Act of Sederunt to regulate Procedure in the Court of Session [31 and 32 Vic., c. 100, s. 106]	27 March	36 days

INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

MARCH 13—*MARCH* 27.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report.

Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

Abbeyfeale
  Loading, etc., Accommodation at Premises of Great Southern and Western Railway Company, Injury done to Trade by Insufficiency of.
    Qs. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 25,* 1481; *Mar. 27,* 1787.

Abercorn, Estate of Duke of
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. C. MacVeigh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1519.

Aberdeen
  Stranding of Vessels—Proposals as to Inquiries.
    Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25,* 1468, 1469.
  University—Report Presented, *Mar. 26,* 1618.
  Woodside and Kittybrewster Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Pirrie; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14,* 239, 240.

Aberdeen Corporation Bill
  l. 2R.* *Mar. 18,* 405.

Abinger, Lord
  Milita
    Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21,* 1249–1251.
    Services rendered by, *Mar. 21,* 1250.

Achintee River
  Footbridge, Erection of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 20–21,* 861.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hon. Sir A. [Somerset, Wellington]
  Army
    Officers, Disposal of Officers of Disbanded Regiments, *Mar. 14,* 329–331.
    Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14,* 329.
  Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1006, 1048.
    Discussion, Burking of, by the Government, *Mar. 20,* 965.
    Memorandum, Reason for Withdrawal of, *Mar. 20–21,* 876.
  Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 22,* 1305; *Mar. 26.* 1764.
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20,* 964.
    Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20,* 964.
    Royal Assent, Circumstances of Granting, *Mar. 22,* 1305.
  Saturday Sitting, Proposals as to, *Mar. 20,* 1305.

Adkins Estate
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 443, 444.

Adkins, Mr W. R. [Lancashire, Middleton]
  Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 385.
  Secondary Education, Policy as to Criticisms on, *Mar. 13,* 121–123.

Admiralty
First Lord—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Financial Secretary—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.
Canvas supplied by Private Firm, Allegations as to Adulteration of.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 19*, 652.
Powers as to Removal of Officers, Number of Signatures, etc., required.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27*, 1782.

Adult (Women and Men) Enfranchisement Bill
c. 1R., *Mar. 26*, 1675.

Afforestation
Unemployed, *see that title.*

Africa
Volunteer Reserves in British Protectorates, Government Encouragement to.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1634.

Africa, East
(*See also names of places.*)
Agricultural Possibilities of British Protectorate—Report of Mr. A. Macdonald.
Q. Sir J. Randles; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 14*, 207.
Beira—Circumstances of Appointment of Brevet-Colonel A. J. Arnold.
Q. Sir D. B. Jones; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 430.
Nairobi Railway Line—Land owned by the Crown.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 20–21*, 829.
Native Unrest, Rumours as to.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 459.
Portuguese—Labour Recruitment for the Transvaal Mines, Monopoly by Witwatersrand Association.
Os. Mr. Mackarness, *Mar. 18*, 515.
Steamship Communication with—Charges by German Line, etc.
Qs. Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1635.

Africa South
(*See also names of Colonies, etc.*)
British Indians, Disabilities of—Bringing Question before the Colonial Conference, proposed.
Os. Lord Ampthill, *Mar. 19*, 622–626; Earl of Elgin, 627, 628.
Garrison
Refund to Messrs. Wilson & Worthington — Approval of General Officer Commanding.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14*, 206.

Africa, South—*cont.*
Garrison—*cont.*
Standerton, Arrangement for Supply of Water to.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14*, 205, 206.
Land Settlement Scheme
Allocation of £500,000, Date of Restoring to Original Purpose, etc.
Qs. Mr. Bridgeman; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 457, 458.
Board, Proposals as to Establishment of.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 490, 491; Mr. E. Cecil, 517, 518.
Constitution of, Information as to.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 491.
Duties of, Information as to.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 491; Mr. E. Cecil, 518.
Funds at disposal of, Information as to.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 491; Mr. Churchill, 536–538.
Progress made with, and Government Policy as to.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 490–494; Mr. E. Cecil, 517–519; Mr. Lyttelton, 533; Mr. Churchill, 535–539; Mr. Bridegman, 552, 553.
Ridgway Commission Report.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 493.
Sum allocated for, from War Contribution Loan, Disposal of.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*; 491; Mr. E. Cecil, 518; Mr. Lyttelton, 533, 737; Mr. Churchill, 537, 538,

Africa, West
(*See also names of Places.*)
Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Principé, Allegations as to Slavery in.
Q. Mr. Arkwright; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18*, 462.

Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 879.

Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906.
Agreements, Invalidation of—Action of certain Landlords in Issuing Notices to Tenants, etc.
Os. Earl of Camperdown, *Mar. 14*, 180, 181; Earl Carrington, 181–183; Marquess of Londonderry, 183, 184; Earl of Crewe, 184, 185; Marquess of Lansdowne, 185; Lord Heneage, 186.
Q. Mr. Montagu; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 14*, 246.

[*cont.*

Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906—*cont.*
  Garnett, Mr., of Clitheroe—Reason for giving Tenants Notice to Quit.
    Q. Mr. Clough; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 19,* 671.

Agricultural Organisation Society, Irish
  Grant to, Amount and Expenditure of.
    Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 200, 201.

Agriculture
  Ireland—Tables Showing Extent in Statute Acres and Produce of Crops, etc., 1906, Presented, *Mar. 20,* 783, 820.
  Labour Employment Bureau, Establishment of, proposed,
    Qs. Mr. Fell; *As.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 14,* 245, 246; *Mar. 20–21,* 854.
  Scientific Research—Departmental Committee
    Scotland, Reason for exclusion from Terms of Reference.
      Qs. Mr. M. Macdonald, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Pirie; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar, 27,* 1820.
    Terms of Reference.
      Qs. Mr. Montagu, Mr. Molteno; *As.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 27,* 1818, 1819.

Agriculture and Fisheries, Board of
  President—Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.
  Annual Report of Proceedings under various Acts, Presented, *Mar. 20,* 821; *Mar. 21,* 1205.
  Elliot, Mr. R. H., Value of Experiments of —Issue of Leaflet to Farmers, proposed
    Q. Sir J. Jardine; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 19,* 672, 673.
  Expenditure—Estimate for 1907–8.
    Q. Mr. C. B. Harmsworth; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 18,* 429, 430.
  Total Amount Voted for, since Establishment, and Rate per Head of Population.
    Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 27,* 1787.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland
  Agricultural Pests, Powers of dealing with.
    Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 51.
  Plunkett, Sir H., Leave of Absence granted to.
    Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 46, 47.
  Total Amount Voted for since Establishment, and Rate per Head of Population.
    Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1777.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Ainsworth, Mr. J. S. [Argyll]
  Clyde Fishing Industry—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 22,* 1271.
  Education (Scotland) Bill, intro., *Mar. 20,* 882.
  Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act, 1868—Notice Issued by Fishmongers' Company, *Mar. 18,* 482, 483.

Alden, Mr. P. [Middlesex, Tottenham]
  Congo Free State Accounts—Composition of Colonial Council, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1641.
  Egypt—Reason for Raising of Assuan Dam, *Mar. 26,* 1641.
  Hague Conference, Establishing as Permanent Congress of Nations, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1671.
  Natal British Indians, Trading Rights of, *Mar. 19,* 656.
  Poor Law—Conditions of supplying Medical Relief to Married Applicants, *Mar. 22,* 1295.
  Unemployed — Employment on Afforestation, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 190.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill.
  c. 2R.* *Mar. 13,* 8.

Aliens
  Bankruptcy Statistics for Last Five Years.
    Qs. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25,* 1509, 1510.
    Qs. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. .27,* 1807, 1808.
  Criminal Statistics for Metropolitan Area during Last Five Years.
    Q. Mr. Liddell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26,* 1648, 1649.
  Expulsion, Liability to—Case of Simon Bernstein.
    Q. Mr. Harwood; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14,* 192.

Allen, Mr. A. A. [Christchurch]
  Ramsey, Lord de—Allotment Holders given Notice to Quit, Number for whom Allotments have been found, etc., *Mar, 25,* 1512.

Alness Ferry
  Tenancy Dispute between Messrs. Cameron and Shaw Mackenzie.
    Q. Mr. A. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Sinclair. *Mar. 27,* 1821.

Ambrose, Dr. R. [Mayo, W.]
  Belmullet Railway Extension, Proposals as to, *Mar. 18,* 444, 445.
  Housing of the Working Classes—Legislation to Extend Act to Urban Labourers proposed, *Mar. 14,* 213.

[*cont.*

Ambrose, Dr. R.—*cont.*
  Inishlyre Harbour Construction, Proposals for, *Mar. 18*, 444, 445.
  Mount Pleasant Grazing Farms, Apportionment of, by Mr. P. Joyce, *Mar. 27*, 1775.

Ampthill, Lord
  British Indians in the Colonies, Disabilities of—Bringing Question before the Colonial Conference, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 621–627, 634.

Ancient Monuments
  Maintenance and Protection of—Reason for Increase in Estimates.
    Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 14*, 247.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill
  c. Rep. Mar. 14*, 188.
    Con. Mar. 20*, 818.
    3R.* *Mar. 25*, 1451.
  l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Anson, Sir W. R. [Oxford University]
  Education
    Code—Application to Wales, *Mar. 13*, 39.
    Sunday Teaching of a Socialistic Character given in certain Schools, alleged, *Mar. 13*, 86–90.
    Welsh Department
      Chief Inspector, Salary of, *Mar. 13*, 90.
      Chief Secretary—Relations with Permanent Secretary at Whitehall, *Mar. 13*, 90.
    Welsh Language, Regulations as to teaching of, in Welsh Schools, *Mar. 13*, 91.

Anstruther-Gray, Major [St. Andrews Burghs]
  Army
    Cavalry Brigade, Quartering in Scotland, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 451, 452.
    Disbanded Line Battalions, Date of Formation of, *Mar. 13*, 25.
    Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14*, 326.
    Reserve, Strength of—Basis of Calculations, *Mar. 13*, 24.
    Sandhurst Cadets, Reason for Delay in Gazetting, *Mar. 18*, 454.
    Soldiers' Rations, Changes in, *Mar. 18*, 453, 454.
  China—Circumstances of Murder of Police-Constable Morrow at Shanghai, *Mar. 19*, 657.
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 567.
  India—Bengal, Circumstances of Murder of Mr. Bloomfield, *Mar. 20–21*, 844.

Anstruther-Gray, Major—*cont.*
  Kensington Gardens — Trees Planted, Lopped and Cut down, Disposal of Branches, etc., *Mar. 19*, 667.
  Lunatic Asylums, District, Discharge of Dangerous Patients from, and Class of Patients admitted to, *Mar. 22*, 1275.
  Militia Artillery Training Proposals, *Mar. 22*, 1288.
  Moray Firth, Trawling in—Prosecution of Norwegian Vessels, Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar.* 18, 567.
  National Gallery—Sale of Photographs of Pictures, *Mar. 19*, 670, 671.
  Navy—Rosyth Base
    Number of Men Employed at, Aggregate Weekly Wage, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1792.
    Preliminary Works, Date of Completion, *Mar. 27*, 1792.
  Persia—Protection of British Legation, etc. *Mar. 22*, 1265; *Mar. 27*, 1802.
  Railway Accident—Mitigation of Sentence on Engine-driver Gourlay, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1771.
  St. Helena, Distress in, proposals for relieving, *Mar. 27*, 1801.
  Salonika, Kidnapping of British Subject at, *Mar. 27*, 1802.
  United States, Commercial Treaty with—Operation of Most-Favoured-Nation Clause, *Mar. 19*, 658.
  War Office Old Buildings and Sites, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 432.

Anthrax
  Statistics as to Outbreaks, and Measures taken to Investigate Disease.
    Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 26*, 1658.

Antrim
  Labourers' Cottages Schemes—Effect on Rates.
    Q. Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 52, 53.

Apprentices
  Amendment of Law as to Indenture—Case of Marris *v.* Olsen.
    Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 20–21*, 860.

Ardagh
  United Irish League Demonstration—Speech as to Boycotting of Mr. Keane.
    Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 55.

Ardcath
  Post Office, Establishment of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Sheehy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 25*, 1521, 1522.

Ardeer, Ayrshire
Explosion at Nobel's Factory—Report Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1767.

Ardler
Water-supply, Proposals for Improving.
Q. Mr. Wilkie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 14*, 247.

Arklow Harbour
Improvement Works, Proposals as to.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1771.

Arkwright, Mr. J. S. [Hereford]
Africa, West—Slavery in Islands of San Thomé and Principé, *Mar. 18*, 462.
Earl's Park—Outrage at House of Mr. T. Conway, *Mar. 14*, 201.

Armaments
Reduction, Possibility of Effecting.
Os. Mr. T. L. Corbett, *Mar. 14*, 270; Mr. Rees, 270–273; Mr. H. Cox, 274; Dr. Rutherford, 276–279; Mr. G. H. Faber, 279; Sir G. Parker, 280–282; Mr. Verney, 283–285; Mr. J. M. Robertson, 285; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 296–298.

Army
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
Parliamentary Secretary—Earl of Portsmouth.
Financial Secretary—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
Accounts Department
Changes in, proposals as to.
Q. Mr. C. Salter; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 19*, 650, 651.
Cost of Transfer of Members, Liability for Service Abroad, etc.
Qs. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 418–420.
Emoluments of Civil and Military Officials.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22*, 1287.
Promotion, Conditions of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22*, 1286.
Artillery
Reductions, proposals as to.
Os. Lord Balcarres, *Mar. 14*, 323, 324.
Royal Garrison (1st Scottish Sub-District), Order as to Sewing up of Soldiers' Trouser Pockets.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 454.
Strength in 1895 and 1905.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 13*, 24.

Army—*cont.*
Ballincollig Barracks, Decision as to Removal of Cavalry from.
Q. Mr. A. Roche; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14*, 214.
Bradley, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant G., Case of.
Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 19*, 653.
Cadet Corps, Sum Voted for.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 26*, 1625, 1626.
Cadets from Sandhurst Reason for Delay in Gazetting.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 454.
Cavalry
Depots, Reviving System of, proposed.
Os. Viscount Valentia, *Mar. 14*, 303; Col. Sandys, 303, 304; Mr. Haldane, 311.
Quartering of Brigade in Scotland, proposed.
Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 451, 452.
Commissions, Number Granted During 1885–1906—Return Ordered, *Mar. 27*, 1769.
Contracts, *see under* War Office.
Disbanded Line Battalions, Date of Formation of.
Q. Major Anstruther Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 13*, 25.
Discharges, Number purchased at a Cost of £10 during last Five Years.
Q. Sir G. Parker; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27*, 1793.
Engineer Civil Staff, Decision as to Pay and Promotion of.
Q. Mr. C. H. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20–21*, 843.
Flogging, Power of Commander-in-Chief in the Field to Authorise—Proposals for Amendment of Act.
Q. Mr. Lehmann; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20–21*, 839.
Furniture, Barrack and Mess, Charge for Use of.
Qs. Mr. Verney; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 452, 453.
Garrisons at Mediterranean Stations, Policy as to Reduction of.
Os. Sir W. Evans-Gordon, *Mar. 18*, 577, 578, 579; Mr. Haldane, 578, 579; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 579.
Imaal Camp, System of supplying to.
Q. Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 430.
Irish Contribution to, and Total Value of Contracts placed in Ireland.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27*, 1789, 1790.

[*cont.*

Army—*cont.*
Marines, Royal, *see that title.*
Military Attachés to Foreign Courts, Language Qualifications of.
Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18,* 424.
Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry, *see those titles.*
Nucleus Battalions, Conditions of joining by Militiamen.
Os. Duke of Bedford, *Mar. 21,* 1224, 1225; Earl of Portsmouth, 1233, 1234; Marquess of Salisbury, 1242–1245.
Officers
Disposal of Officers of Disbanded Regiments.
Os. Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 14,* 329–331.
Effect of Abolition of the Militia on Supply of.
Os. Marquess of Salisbury, *Mar. 21,* 1248, 1249; Lord Tweedmouth, 1254; Earl of Donoughmore, 1256–1258.
Lieutenant-Colonels, Further Employment of.
Q. Sir G. Fardell; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 213, 214.
Promotion from the Ranks, proposed.
Os. Mr. Menzies, *Mar. 14,* 308, 309; Mr. Haldane, 309.
Order of 11th March, Effect of and Proposals for Consideration of Exceptional Cases.
Q. Mr. C. Salter; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 19,* 651.
Ordnance Corps—Appointment of Warrant Officers.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 26,* 1632.
Ordnance Factories, Wages paid in.
Q. Mr. W. T. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 13,* 22, 23.
Pensions—Satisfactory Service which has not earned a Pension, Allowance for, proposed.
Q. Mr. W. Long; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1305.
Promotions—Recommendations by Board of Selection, Power of Secretary of State to Veto.
Os. Mr. Ashley, *Mar. 14,* 305, 306; Mr. Haldane, 310.
Provost-Marshal, Powers of and Qualifications for Office of Assistant.
Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Lea; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 25,* 1488, 1489.
Reductions effected in.
Os. Mr. J. A. M. Macdonald, *Mar. 14,* 304, 305; Mr. Ashley, 306; Mr. Cobbold, 324, 325; Major Anstruther-Gray, 326: Mr. Lupton, 327, 328; Sir A. Acland-Hood, 329; Mr. Carlile, 331; Mr. Maddison, 332–334.

Army—*cont.*
Reserve
Infantry of the Line, Strength of.
Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. Hardane, *Mar. 25,* 1485.
Schedule D., Changes proposed in Terms of Service.
Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20–21,* 838, 839.
Strength of
Basis of Calculations, etc.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 13,* 24, 25.
Statement Presented, *Mar. 14,* 163, 188.
Savings Banks
Accounts Presented, *Mar. 15,* 338.
Statement of Deposits, Interest, etc., to March 31st, 1906, Presented, *Mar. 21,* 1206.
Second Line or Territorial Army, Proposals as to.
Os. Earl of Wemyss, *Mar. 21,* 1212–1216; Viscount Hardinge, 1228–1232; Earl of Portsmouth, 1233–1240; Lord Tweedmouth, 1254.
Civil Servants, Eligibility of.
Q. Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 13,* 23, 24.
Q. Mr. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 203.
Divisional Generals, Appointment of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 26,* 1625.
Irish Recruits, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Starkey; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27,* 1795.
Memorandum Explanatory of, Issue of, proposed.
Os. Duke of Bedford, Earl of Portsmouth, *Mar. 21,* 1236; Marquess of Salisbury, 1242, 1244; Earl of Donoughmore, 1257.
Musketry Course, Proposals as to.
Q. Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 205.
Pay and Allowances, Information as to.
Qs. Mr. Myer, Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Haldane, *Mar. 20–21,* 841, 842.
Uniform, Provision of.
Q. Mr. Myer; *A* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20–21,* 842.
Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. Myer; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 25,* 1485–1487.
Seditious Handbills circulated in Dublin, Action proposed to be taken as to.
Q. Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 205.

[*cont.*

Army—*cont.*

- Signalling Regulations, Date of Issue of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Vivian; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1287, 1288.
- Soldiers
  - Civil Employment on Discharge
    - Arrangement made with Messrs. Harrod for training Men as Packers.
      - *Qs.* Mr. Seddon; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 204.
      - *Q.* Mr. Seddon; *A.* Mr, Haldane, *Mar. 20,* 840. 841.
    - Small Wages paid to Men with Pensions, Allegation as to.
      - *Q.* Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20,* 841.
  - Consumptive, Treatment of, on Discharge.
    - *Q.* Major Seely; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 26,* 1633.
  - Rations, Changes in.
    - *Qs.* Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18,* 453, 454.
  - Song Book for, Proposals for Compiling.
    - *Q.* Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 203.
- Strength, Statistics as to.
  - *Q.* Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 25,* 1489.
- Terms of Service—Seven and Five Years' System, Effect of, on Reserve.
  - *Q.* Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18,* 424.
- Territorial Army, *see subheading* Second Line.
- Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, *see that title.*
- Training Arrangements for 3rd West Riding and 3rd York and Lancaster Regiments.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lane-Fox; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1304.
- Uniforms, Cost of Supplying 300,000 Men with.
  - *Q.* Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27,* 1795.

Army (Annual) Bill

- *c.* 1R. *Mar. 14,* 335.
  - 2R. *Mar. 18,* 582.
  - *Com., Mar. 21,* 1005.
  - *Rep.* Mar. 21,* 1203.
  - *Con., Mar. 25,* 1613.
  - 3R.* *Mar. 25,* 1616.
- *l.* 1R.* *Mar. 26,* 1619.
- Amendments — Memorandum Presented, *Mar. 15,* 338.

Army (Annual) Bill—*cont.*

- *Debates on Second Reading* [Commons], *Mar. 18,* 582; *Committee, Mar. 21,* 1005.
  - Amendment of Section 42 as to Redress of Wrongs complained of by Officers—New Clause proposed, 1181–1184.
  - Bringing into Force on Same Day in all Parts of the British Empire, proposed, 1021–1026.
  - Clause 6—Limiting Operation of, to Naval and Military Prisoners, proposed, 1057–1063.
  - Clause 8—Opportunity for Discussing with the Schedule, 1074–1076.
  - Copies of Act, Difficulty in Obtaining, 590.
  - Date of coming into Operation, Acceleration of, 582.
  - Desertion, Fraudulent Enlistment and Absence without Leave, Definition of Punishment for—New Clauses, 1125–1130, 1135–1138.
  - Detention Barracks, Proposals as to, 583, 1056, 1077–1081.
  - Discussion, Postponement of, proposed, 1005–1013, 1088–1091.
  - Enlistment, Age for, Alteration of Regulations, proposed, 1187, 1188.
  - Indentured Labour, Amendment of Section 97 of Act as to—New Clause, 1143–1146.
  - India
    - Soldiers serving in—Procedure in making known Grievances, 587, 1055, 1056.
    - Staff Corps Officers, Penalties to be Imposed on, by Proviso 7, 590, 591, 595.
  - Legislation by Reference, Objections to, 584, 589.
  - Motions to Report Progress, 1005, 1043, 1064, 1072, 1082, 1088, 1115, 1171.
  - Penal Code, Amendment of Regulations as to, 586, 587, 588, 591, 595, 1057, 1081–1088.
  - Postponement of Second Reading, proposed, 592, 593.
  - Punishments, Provisoes as to—Meaning of Term "Field Punishment," etc., 1081–1088.
  - Punishments
    - Flogging not to be authorised, 1101–1106.
    - Rules as to—Tabling, proposed, 1084, 1085, 1088, 1108.
  - Purchase of Discharge, Alteration of Payment to £5, proposed, 1191, 1192.

Army (Annual) Bill—*cont.*
- *Debates on Second Reading* [Commons]—*cont.*
  - Recruiting, Interference with, Increasing Penalties for, proposed, 1155–1158.
  - Repeal of Section 135a of Act of 1906, Information as to, 585–587, 1077–1081.
  - Reprinting, with Alterations shown in the Bill, 594, 596, 1079.
  - Right of Accused to have Evidence in Writing—New Clause, 1165, 1166.
  - Schedule of Food provided to Soldiers who were Billeted, Alteration in, 582, 583, 588.
  - Section 189 of Act, Repeal of—New Clause, 1149–1152.
- Discussion, Alleged Burking of, by the Government.
  - *Os.* Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 20,* 965; Mr. Haldane, 965.
- Memorandum
  - Presented, *Mar. 18,* 408; *Mar. 19,* 639; *Mar. 20,* 783.
  - Reason for Withdrawal, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. W. Long, Sir A. Acland-Hood; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20–21,* 875, 876.

Army Estimates
- Application of Surpluses to Meet Deficiencies—Treasury Minute, Presented, *Mar. 22,* 1264.
- Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under Military Works Acts, Presented, *Mar. 20,* 820; *Mar. 21,* 1205.
- Land Forces (190,000), *Rep.**, *Mar. 14,* 301.
- Pay, etc.—£9,835,000, *Rep.**, *Mar. 14,* 301.
- Reductions effected in.
  - *Os.* Mr. Menzies, *Mar. 14,* 308; Mr. Haldane, 309.

Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hon. H. O. [Croydon]
- Army
  - Reserve
    - Changes proposed in Terms of Service (Schedule D.), *Mar. 20–21,* 838.
    - Infantry of the Line, Strength of, *Mar. 25,* 1485.
  - Second Line—Uniforms and Clothing, Supply of, *Mar. 25,* 1485.
- Grocers' Licences, Amount sold under during 1905–6, *Mar. 27,* 1785.
- Jamaica Earthquake—Grant to Facilitate Rebuilding, Decision as to, *Mar. 18,* 431.
- Navy—Gun Reserve, Information as to, *Mar. 25,* 1482–1483.
- Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill—Application of Part III., to Reserve, *Mar. 22,* 1304.
- United States—Tariff Relations with Canada, *Mar. 26,* 1642.

Arran Island
- Clanchland Point, Erection of Light on, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lamont; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25,* 1468.

Art and Science Buildings
- Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Ashbourne, Lord
- Baines' Name Bill, 2R. *Mar. 13,* 1, 3.
- Byrne's Divorce Bill, *Com., Mar. 19,* 598.
- Companies Bill, 2R. *Mar. 14,* 173.
- County Courts Bill, 2R. *Mar. 14,* 177.

Ashley, Mr. W. W. [Lancashire, N., Blackpool]
- Africa, East
  - Land owned by the Crown on Nairobi Railway, *Mar. 20–21,* 829.
  - Native Unrest, Rumours of, *Mar. 18,* 459.
- Army
  - Garrisons in Gibraltar, Malta, and the Straits Settlements, Policy of Reducing, *Mar. 14,* 307.
  - Promotions — Recommendations by Board of Selection, Power of Secretary of State to Veto, *Mar. 14,* 305, 306.
  - Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14,* 306.
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1008, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1061, 1069, 1082, 1125, 1135, 1143.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 18,* 548.
- Greenwich Observatory—Effect of London County Council Generating Station, *Mar. 18,* 449.
- Lancashire Schools, Sum Allocated to, *Mar., 18,* 476.
- Newfoundland Fisheries—Circumstances of Granting *Modus vivendi*—Statute Law of the Colony Overridden, alleged, *Mar. 18,* 502–505.
  - History of the Dispute, *Mar. 18,* 501.
- South Kensington Technical College, Governing Body of, *Mar. 23,* 1369.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.—*Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Fife, E.]
- Beer Tax—Differentiating between Malt and Hops Beer and that brewed from Substitutes, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1644.
- Belfast—Liquor Licences
  - Duty paid by Licensed Traders (1905 and 1906), *Mar. 14,* 193.
  - Statistics as to, *Mar. 25,* 1455.
- Blocking Motions and Bills put on Order Paper to Prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, alleged, *Mar. 25,* 1524, 1525; *Mar. 27,* 1887.

[*cont.*

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
- Budget Statement, Date of making, *Mar. 25*, 1503.
- Canada—Public Industrial Company Shares held by Persons Resident in United Kingdom, *Mar. 25*, 1503.
- Charities—Liability to Land Tax, *Mar. 26*, 1643.
- Consolidated Fund Appropriation Act, 1905—Powers of Treasury under Section 5, *Mar. 25*, 1427, 1500–1503.
- Consols, Decline in Value of, *Mar. 18*, 464–466.
- Education—Grant for New Schools, Proposals as to, *Mar. 25*, 1521.
- Equivalent Grants, Arrangement for and Application of, *Mar. 25*, 1456–1499.
- Estate Duty Offices, Appointment of Solicitors, *Mar. 18*, 439.
- Fisheries Inquiry, Scope of, *Mar. 26*, 1629.
- Gold Reserve, Inquiry into, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1278.
- Income Tax
  - Bank Loans, Payment on, *Mar. 26*, 1646.
  - Collection
    - Assimilating English and Scotch Systems, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 229.
    - Final Notices, Issue of in England and Scotland, *Mar. 18*, 463, 464.
    - Ireland, Issue of Final Notices in, *Mar. 19*, 658.
  - Cottage Property, Assessment of, *Mar. 25*. 1471
  - Easter Offerings, Charge on—Decision in Case of Cooper *v.* Blakiston, *Mar. 13*, 30.
  - Mining Dividends, Charge on, *Mar. 20–21*, 852.
  - Non-Payments in 1905–6, *Mar. 14*, 228.
  - Refund
    - Information given by Surveyors, *Mar. 22*, 1278.
- Liquor Licences, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 463.
- Navy Estimates—Surplus on one Vote Applied to Deficit on another, *Mar. 14*, 229, 230.
- Old Age Pensions Scheme, proposals for, *Mar. 18*, 463.
  - Exchequer Contribution, Amount of, *Mar. 14*, 228.
- Post Office Savings Bank Funds
  - Application for Erection of Working Class Houses, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1645.
  - Investment in Irish Land Stock, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1645.
  - Liabilities to Depositors—Date of Presenting Statement, *Mar. 22*, 1279.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
- Solicitors, Ireland — Discontinuance of Annual Licence Fee, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1472.
- Stock Exchange Transactions in
  - Bank Shares—Violation of Leeman's Act, alleged, *Mar. 13*, 22.
  - Fee on Transfer of American Railway Stocks, *Mar. 20–21*, 852.
  - Revenue Derivable from 1 per cent. Stamp Tax on, *Mar. 27*, 1804.
- Sugar Duty
  - Abolition of, *Mar. 18*, 439.
  - Revenue in 1906 and Date of Issue of Return as to Price, *Mar. 22*, 1278.
- Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1744, 1745.
- West Indies, profit on Sale of Silver to, *Mar. 26*, 1644.
- Whisky, Pot-still and Patent-still—Statistics as to Production (1886, 1896, 1906), *Mar. 20*, 21, 851; *Mar. 27*, 1804.

Athenry
- Agricultural College, Information as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 429.
- Poaching Case—Remarks of Mr. French.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 427, 428.
- Reason for, and Circumstances of Arrest of Mr. Moran.
  - *Q.* Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 428, 429.

Athlone
- Grass Farms offered for Sale.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1478, 1479.

Attorney-General
- *Sir J. Walton.*

Attorney-General for Ireland
- *Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.*

Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H. [Sussex, Lewes]
- Army (Annual) Bill, 1R., *Mar. 14*, 335.
- Butter and Margarine Bill, Date of Taking, *Mar. 22*, 1275.

Australia
- (*See also Names of States.*)
- Mail Service, *see under* Post Office.
- New Hebrides Convention—*see under* New Hebrides.
- Preference Bill—Proposals as to Reservation of Assent.
  - *Q.* Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 431.

Austria-Hungary
Glass and Glassware exported to United Kingdom—Figures given in Return. *Q.* Mr. Remnant; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 18,* 474.

Avebury, Lord
Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14,* 169.
Sheffield Corporation Bill, 2R., *Mar. 20,* 782.

Bailey Estate
Purchase of Untenanted Land, proposed. *Q.* Mr. H. Burke; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1663.

Baines' Name Bill
l. 2R., *Mar. 13,* 1.
Com., Mar. 14, 162.

Balcarres, Lord [Lancashire, N. Chorley]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1058, 1060, 1077, 1083, 1116.
Artillery, Reduction, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14,* 323, 324.
Chippenham National School, No. 66, Decision as to Repairs to, *Mar. 13,* 116.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20,* 966, 975.
Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20,* 966.
Education
Schools
New, Grant for, *Mar. 14,* 243; *Mar. 20,* 975.
Repairs to, Policy as to, *Mar. 13,* 116, 117.
Training Colleges—Votes, Reason for increase in, *Mar. 13,* 117–119.
Voluntary Schools, Policy as to, *Mar. 20,* 975.
Malta Garrison, Reduction of, *Mar. 14,* 310, 312.
Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, Enactments adapted or applied by—Return proposed, *Mar. 18,* 455.

Baldwin, Mr. A. [Worcester, Bewdley]
Great Western, London and North Western and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 750–751.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. [London]
Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of effecting, *Mar. 14,* 296–298.
Army Annual Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1171–1173, 1175–1178.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
Bills
Private Members' Bills having obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1709.
Standing Committees, Reference to
Bills, the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25,* 1612; *Mar. 26,* 1679.
Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1719, 1722.
Motion for Referring Bills to, proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26,* 1690, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1702.
Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was Responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1594.
Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 14,* 254, 255.
Channel Tunnel Bill—Policy of the Government as to, *Mar. 21,* 1204.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 579.
Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 21,* 1171, 1172, 1175, 1178.
Garrisons at Mediterranean Statons, Policy as to Reduction of, *Mar. 18,* 579.
Navy
Estimates—Report Stage, Rule as to Course of Discussion on, *Mar. 14,* 259, 260.
Nucleus Crews, Training for, etc., *Mar. 14,* 293.
Repairs, Policy as to, *Mar. 14,* 293, 294.
Strength of, *Mar. 14,* 294, 295.
Parliamentary Procedure
Blocking Motion of Member for Barnstaple, Effect of, *Mar. 25,* 1524.
Standing Order Providing for Time for Vote on Account—Alleged Discrepancy in, *Mar. 14,* 256.
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19,* 703, 704, 705, 706, 707–711, 712–716.
Standing Committees
Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, Unless otherwise ordered, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1568–1575.
Scottish Committee, Proposals as to, Establishing, *Mar. 25,* 1568, 1579.
Women's Franchise—Motion for, Effect on, proposal to introduce Bill on same Subject, *Mar. 25,* 1526.

Balintore
Harbour, Condition of—Responsibility for Work, etc,
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18,* 479.

Ballybofey
Railway Station, Right of Company to Discontinue Use of.
Q. Mr. C. MacVeigh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22,* 1280, 1281.

Ballyglunin
Postal Facilities, Improvement of.
Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14,* 250, 251.

Ballylongford
Untenanted Land Held by Mr. Crosbie, Purchase of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19,* 678.

Ballynanty
Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Hartigan.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1665.

Ballynulty
Evicted Holding of R. Merrick, Progress of Negotiations as to.
Q. Mr. Cullinan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 59.

Banbury, Sir F. G. [London, City of]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1012, 1115, 1126, 1136, 1137, 1144, 1145, 1150, 1177.
Baronets, Degree of—Report of Committee of Inquiry, Date of Presenting, *Mar. 27,* 1786.
Bills
  Private Members' Bills, having obtained a Second Reading, should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1707.
  Standing Committees, Reference to
    Bills having Passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than Two-Thirds to be sent to Grand Committee, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1601–1604.
    Bills, The Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m., Objections to automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25,* 1611.
    Motion for referring Bills to, Proposed procedure as to, *Mar. 26,* 1686–1688, 1692, 1700.
    Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was Responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1589.

Banbury, Sir F. G.—*cont.*
Bills—*cont.*
  Standing Committee—*cont.*
    Withdrawal from General Discussion by the House, Objections to, *Mar. 26,* 1687.
Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 22,* 1308, 1309.
Colonial Ex-Governors engaging in Commercial Enterprises—Tabling Copy of Circular proposed, *Mar. 23,* 1372.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill. *Com., Mar. 19,* 776; 3R., *Mar. 20,* 987.
  Discussion of Arrangements for, *Mar. 20,* 967, *Mar. 21,* 1177.
Consols, Decline in Value of, *Mar. 18,* 465.
Education
  Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20–21,* 987.
  Welsh Department, proposals for, *Mar. 20–21,* 856.
    Appointments—Qualifications of Mr. Davies and Mr. O. Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13,* 103.
Licensed Premises (Election Days) Closing Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 402.
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 384, 397.
London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 770.
Milk—proposals for Municipal Depots, *Mar. 14,* 190.
Navy—Stokers, Changes in Duties and Training of, *Mar. 14,* 267, 268.
Panama Canal, Conditions of Hiring Trinidad Labour for, *Mar. 23,* 1372.
Railways—Payment of Interest out of Capital during Construction of New Lines—Amendment of Standing Order 167, *Mar. 14,* 314–316.
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 368, 370.
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20,* 952, 953.
Sewage Disposal—Date of Introducing Bill Dealing with, *Mar. 27,* 1787.
Stirling and Carnarvon Castles, Sum Allotted for Maintenance and Repair of, *Mar. 20–21,* 855.

Bankruptcy
Aliens, *see that title.*
Case of Button *ex parte* Hairside, Decision in—Amendment of Law proposed.
Q. Mr. Herbert; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 19,* 641.

Barley, Malting
Quantities and Prices Sold in Certain Markets, October—December, 1906.
Q. Mr. Kilbride; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 20–21,* 833.

Barnes, Mr. G. N. [Glasgow, Blackfriars]
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 727–731.
Woolwich Arsenal—Piece Work, Grievances as to Price—Fixing tor, *Mar. 27*, 1794.

Baronets
Degree of—Report of Committee of Inquiry, Date of Presenting.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 27*, 1786.

Barran, Mr. R. H. [Leeds, N.]
Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22*, 1353–1355.

Barrie, Mr. H. T. [Londonderry, N.]
Housing of the Working Classes—Loans to Urban Councils, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 678.
Income-tax Collection—Issue of Final Notices in Ireland, *Mar. 19*, 658.
Licensing (Ireland) Act, 1902—Decision as to Renewal, *Mar. 19*, 677.
Woolwich Arsenal Discharges, Statistics as to, *Mar. 22*, 1288.

Barrington, Sir C., Estates of
Culnahilla, Purchase of, Proposals.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1462.

Barrow River
Drainage Proposals—Cost of Scheme, etc.
Qs. Mr. Meehan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 824, 825.

Barry, Mr. E. [Cork County, S.]
Carbery Estate—Case of P. McCarthy, *Mar. 14*, 199.

Barry Estate
Sale of—Interest Payable, etc.
Q. Mr. K. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1301, 1302.

Basingstoke Gas Bill
c. Rep. Mar. 14*, 187.
Con. Mar. 25*, 1451.

Battle
Post Office Staff, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13*, 39.

Beale
Schoolmaster—Salary of Mr. Beasley.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 53, 54.

Beale, Mr. W. P. [Ayrshire, S.]
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 364.
River Pollution, Prevention of—Powers Conferred by Existing Law, *Mar. 18*, 480.

Beauley and Ness Rivers
Landlords Claiming Fishery Rights.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26*, 1661, 1662.

Beckett, Mr. G. [York, N.R., Whitby]
Salmon Fisheries, Legislative Proposals as to, *Mar. 25*, 1515.
Small Holdings Bill—Date of Introduction, *Mar. 27*, 1829.

Bedford, Duke of
Army
Nucleus Battalions, conditions of joining by Militiamen, *Mar. 21*, 1224, 1225.
Territorial Force—Memorandum Explanatory of, Issue of, proposed, *Mar. 21*, 1236.
Militia
Recruiting for the Line through, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1224–1227, 1238.
Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21*, 1216–1228.
Services rendered by, *Mar. 21*, 1216–1219.

Beer
Tax on—Differentiating between Malt and Hop Beer and that Brewed from Substitutes, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lane-Fox; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 26*, 1614.

Beet Sugar
See Sugar, Beet.

Belfast
Liquor Licences Duty
Paid by Licensed Traders (1905 and 1906).
Q. Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 14*, 193.
Statistics as to.
Q. Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25*, 1455.
School Children—Prosecution for Non-Attendance during 1906.
Q. Mr. Mooney; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 441, 442.

Belgium
Antwerp Consul-General, Staff of—Qualifications of Mr. N. Kearney, etc.
Q. Mr. C. E. Price; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 225.

Bell, Mr. R. [Derby]
Elliot Junction Railway Accident—Revision of Sentence on Gourlay, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1517.
Railway Accidents—Procedure in Arrest of Officials, *Mar. 25*, 1517.

Bellairs, Mr. C. [Lynn Regis]
- Admiralty—Powers as to Removal of Officers, *Mar. 27,* 1782.
- Dover Harbour, Expenditure on, Regulations to prevent Mishaps to Vessels of, *Mar. 25,* 1483.
- *London Gazette*—Rule as to Publication of Grants to Naval and Military Officers, *Mar. 14,* 193.
- Navy
  - "Barfleur," Captains appointed to, etc., during last twenty-four Months, *Mar. 19,* 652.
  - Battleships, Collisions and Groundings, Increase in Number of, *Mar. 14,* 261.
  - "Dreadnought"—Cost of Armament, *Mar. 25,* 1484–1485.
  - Education and Training—Interchangeability Scheme, *Mar. 14,* 261, 262.
  - Expenditure—Statement as to Great Britain and certain Foreign Countries (1907–8), *Mar. 18,* 416.
  - Home Fleet
    - Boys, Employment of, *Mar. 14,* 215.
    - Commander-in-Chief — Potential Absence on Duty, *Mar. 14,* 215.
    - Effect of, on Striking Strength, *Mar. 18,* 451.
  - "Invincible" Class Cruisers, Cost of and Date of Completion, *Mar. 23,* 1371.
  - Nucleus Crews, Battleships with, *Mar. 18,* 450, 451.
  - Prizes, Reason for Reduction in Estimate for and Omission of Printed Table, *Mar. 27,* 1780.
  - Redistribution
    - Particulars of, *Mar. 19,* 653.
    - Replacing Vessels requiring Extensive Refits, *Mar. 14,* 215.
  - Reserve of Guns and Ammunition, *Mar. 19,* 651, 652.
  - Two Years Commission System, *Mar. 14,* 215.
- Wireless Telegraphy—Convention, Date of coming into Force and Opportunity for discussing, *Mar. 14,* 240.

Belloc, Mr. H. V. P. R. [Salford, S.]
- Gooseberry Mildew, Origin of and Proposals for dealing with, *Mar. 14,* 208, 212.

Belmullet
- Railway Extension to Mullaranny, Proposals as to.
  - *Qs.* Dr. Ambrose; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 444–446.

Beltyville
- Reinstatement Claim of Edmond Hartigan.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1666.

Bennett, Mr. E. N. [Oxfordshire, Woodstock]
- Land Values, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1732.
- Liquor Traffic, Additional Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1732, 1733.
- Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1729–1735.
- Wealth, Distribution of, *Mar. 26,* 1731.

Bentley
- Motor Train Fatality, Alleged Refusal of Military Doctor of Bordon Camp to render Assistance.
  - *Q.* Mr. Marnham; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27,* 1792.

"Berlin," Wreck of
- Investigation into.
  - *Qs.* Sir E. Sassoon; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13,* 31, 32.
- Measures to Improve Entrances to Continental Harbours, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lynch; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 19,* 666.

Bignold, Sir A. [Wick Burghs]
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 564.
- Moray Firth, Trawling in
  - Foreign Vessels other than Norwegian observed since 1903, *Mar. 18,* 422.
  - Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 18,* 565.
- Trawling—Protection of Fishery Grounds, Inadequate Nature of, *Mar. 18,* 564.
- Tuberculosis, Cows suffering from—Disposal of Carcases, *Mar. 22,* 1294.

Bills
- Private Members Bills having obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed.
  - *Os.* Col. Kenyon-Slaney, *Mar. 26,* 1705–1707, 1710; Sir H. Fowler, 1707; Sir F. Banbury, 1707; Mr. S. Evans, 1707; Mr. Long, 1708; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1708; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1709; Lord R. Cecil, 1710.
- Standing Committees, referring all Bills to unless otherwise ordered
  - Bills having passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than Two-thirds, to be sent to Grand Committee, proposed.
    - *Os.* Mr. S. Wortley, *Mar. 25,* 1598; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1599; Mr. Long, 1599; Mr. L. Hardy, 1600; Sir F. Powell, 1601; Sir F. Banbury, 1601–1604; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1604.

[*cont.*,

Bills—*cont.*

Standing Committees, etc.—*cont.*

Bills the Second Reading of which was taken aften 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee.
Os. Mr. Bowles, Viscount Helmsley, *Mar. 25,* 1609; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1610, 1613; Sir E. Carson, 1610; Lord R. Cecil, 1610, 1612; Sir F. Banbury, 1611; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1612; Sir H. Fowler, 1612; Mr. L. Hardy, 1613; Mr. S. Wilson, 1613; Mr. A. S. Wilson, *Mar. 26,* 1676–1678; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1678; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1679.

Exemption of Bills, imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed.
Os. Mr. Rawlinson, *Mar. 26,* 1713–1715; Viscount Helmsley, 1715; Sir H. Fowler, 1715; Mr. Long, 1716; Lord R. Cecil, 1717; Sir J. Walton, 1718; Mr. S. Wortley, 1719; Mr. S. Evans, 1719; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1719, 1722; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1720–1722; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1722.

Motion for, proposed Procedure as to.
Os. Mr. L. Hardy, *Mar. 26,* 1683; Mr. Rawlinson, 1684, 1694; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1685, 1686, 1692, 1694, 1695, 1701; Mr. S. Wortley, 1686, 1697, 1701; Sir F. Powell, 1686, 1699; Sir F. Banbury, 1686, 1688, 1692, 1700; Mr. S. Evans, 1690, 1692, 1700, 1702; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1690, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1702; Mr. Long, 1691; Mr. Forster, 1695; Mr. Speaker, 1696; Viscount Helmsley, 1697; Earl Percy, 1698, 1699; Sir H. Fowler, 1698, 1699; Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, 1700; Mr. Cave, 1702.

Private Members' Bills, Order of Precedence in Referring to Committee.
Os. Mr. A. Chamberlain, *Mar. 20,* 903.

Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was Responsible, proposed.
Os. Mr. S. Wortley, *Mar. 25,* 1587–1589; Sir F. Banbury, 1589; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1590; Mr. W. Long, 1590; Mr. J. Ellis, 1591, Sir F. Powell, 1592; Mr. L. Hardy, Mr. W. Rutherford, 1593; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1594.

Bills—*cont.*

Standing Committees, etc.—*cont.*

Withdrawal from General Discussion by the House, Objections to.
Os. Sir F. Banbury, *Mar. 26,* 1687; Mr. A. Douglas, 1688; Mr. A. Cross, 1689; Viscount Helmsley, 1689, 1690.

Tonnage Clauses in Certain Bills, Intentions of Board of Trade as to.
Q. Sir B. Gurdon; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 20–21,* 835.

Billson, Mr. A. [Staffordshire, N.W.]

Local Government Act, 1894—Appeals under Section 9, Subsection 4, *Mar. 20–21,* 836.

Birds

Feeding Habits and Utility of—Inquiry into, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Montagu, Sir P. Magnus; *As.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 27,* 1817, 1818.

Birmingham Corporation Bill

l. Rep. Mar. 18,* 405.
3R.* *Mar. 21,* 1205.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 22,* 1262.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*Chief Secretary for Ireland* [Bristol, N.]

Abbeyfeale, Railway Premises, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 25,* 1481.

Abercorn, Estate of Duke of—Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25,* 1519.

Adkins Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 18,* 444.

Administration—Bringing of Wrongdoers to Justice, Allegations as to Laxity in, *Mar. 14,* 201.

Agrarian Outrages (1902–1907), *Mar. 20–21,* 828.

Agricultural Organisation Society, Grant to, *Mar. 14,* 201.

Agriculture Department

Agricultural Pests, Powers of Dealing with, *Mar. 13,* 51.

Plunkett, Sir H., Leave of Absence Granted to, *Mar. 13,* 47.

Total Amount Voted for since Establishment, and Rate per Head of Population, *Mar. 27,* 1777.

Antrim Labourers' Cottages Schemes—Effect on Rates, *Mar. 13,* 53.

Ardagh United Irish League Demonstration—Speech as to Boycotting of Mr. Keans, *Mar. 13,* 55.

Arklow Harbour Improvement Works, Proposals as to, *Mar. 27,* 1771.

Athenry

Agricultural College, Information as to, *Mar. 18,* 429.

[*cont.*

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Athenry—*cont.*
  - Poaching Case—Remarks of Mr. French, *Mar. 18,* 428.
  - Reason for and Circumstances of Arrest of N. Moran, *Mar. 18,* 429.
- Athlone Grass Farms Offered for Sale, *Mar. 25,* 1479.
- Bailey Estate Untenanted Land, Purchase of, *Mar. 26,* 1663.
- Ballylongford Untenanted Land, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 19,* 678.
- Ballynanty—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Hartigan, *Mar. 26,* 1665.
- Ballynulty—Negotiations as to Evicted Holding of R. Merrick, *Mar. 13,* 59.
- Barrington, Sir C., Estates of—Culnahilla, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1462.
- Barrow River Drainage Proposals, *Mar. 20–21,* 825.
- Barry Estate, Sale of—Interest Payable, etc., *Mar. 22,* 1302.
- Beale Schoolmaster—Salary of Mr. Beasley, *Mar. 13,* 54.
- Belfast School Children—Prosecutions for Non-attendance during 1906, *Mar. 18,* 442.
- Belmullet Railway Extension, proposals as to, *Mar. 18,* 445, 446.
- Beltyville—Reinstatement Claim of Edmond Hartigan, *Mar. 26,* 1666.
- Blacklion—Boycotting of Mr. T. E. Taylor, *Mar. 19,* 675.
- Bourney Untenanted Lands, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 18,* 446, 447.
- Boycotting, Cases of on 1st inst, *Mar. 20–21,* 827.
- Bunnahow Grass Lands, Disposal of, *Mar. 15,* 342.
- Burtonport Harbour Improvement, Decision as to, *Mar. 18,* 448.
- Butson Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 20–21,* 867.
- Carbery Estate—Case of P. McCarthy, *Mar. 14,* 799.
- Carmichael O'Ferrall Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 14,* 198.
- Chief Secretary, Sum Voted for Travelling Expenses of (1907–8), *Mar. 18,* 442.
- Clanricarde Estate Planters, Speech at Meeting of, *Mar. 13,* 52.
- Clare—Outrages in which Firearms were used, *Mar. 13,* 51.
- Claremont Estate of Maj. Armstrong, Sale of, *Mar. 20–21,* 867.
- Clement's Estate, Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. A. Kerrigan, *Mar. 19,* 677.
- Cloghroe Dynamite Outrage, Inquiry into, *Mar. 20–21,* 866.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Cloveneden Procession of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Route taken by, *Mar. 13,* 54.
- Constabulary
  - Recruiting Area, Restriction of, proposed, *Mar. 15,* 344.
  - Strength, Cost and Proposals as to Reduction, *Mar. 15,* 339.
- Co-operative Banks—Return as to Number, etc., of, proposed, *Mar 27,* 1774
- Cooscroum Landing Place, Decision as to, *Mar. 26,* 1662.
- Corbally—Purchase of Miss Griffith's Land *Mar. 19,* 643.
- Cork
  - Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of, *Mar. 20–21,* 871.
- Corofin Constabulary District Inspector—Circumstances of Loss of Sum of Money, *Mar. 20–21,* 870.
- County Courts—Ages of Land Valuers, *Mar. 13,* 56.
- Courtown Harbour—Report of Agriculture, Department on, *Mar. 27,* 1771.
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 152–155.
- Crofton Estate
  - Grass Lands, Disposal of, *Mar. 26,* 1665.
  - Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 13,* 50.
- Crossdrum—Sale Proposals for Mr. Rotheram's Land, *Mar. 19,* 643.
- Curraghmore—Seed Potatoes, Seed Oats and Lime—Proposals for Supplying, *Mar. 25,* 1518.
- Delmege Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Windle, *Mar. 14,* 191.
- Dicken Estate, Sale Proposals for—Case of P. O'Brien, *Mar. 25,* 1463.
- Doagh School, Grant for, *Mar. 14,* 211.
- Donegal
  - Fisheries—Protest against Projected by-law of Agriculture Department, *Mar. 25,* 1519; *Mar. 27,* 1827.
  - Harbour and Fishing Accommodation, Proposals for Improving, *Mar. 13,* 59.
- Doohoma School—Circumstances of Eviction of Mr. Cryan by Father Dolphin, etc., *Mar. 15,* 344; *Mar. 20–21,* 873.
- Douglas Estate
  - Case of Mrs. K. Scanlan, *Mar. 13,* 57.
  - Purchase Proposals for, *Mar. 26,* 1631.
- Downings Bay Shelter Pier, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14,* 200.

[*cont.*

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Dowra—Population, Police Force, etc., *Mar. 18*, 428.
- Drainage, Arterial, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 213.
- Drum Untenanted Land belonging to Sir H. Burke, Sale of, *Mar. 25*, 1477.
- Dublin
  - Metropolitan Police
    - Recruiting Area, Restriction of, proposed, *Mar. 15*, 344.
    - Religion of, *Mar. 18*, 448
  - Science College Librarian, Proposals for Appointment of, *Mar. 13*, 50, 51.
- Dunraven Estate, Sale of—Cases of Spearing and Drew, *Mar. 26*, 1668.
- Dunshaughlin Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Applications rejected, *Mar. 25*, 1520–1521.
- Earl's Park—Outrage at House of Mr. Conway, *Mar. 14*, 202.
- Edenderry Summonses—Legality of Service by Constabulary, *Mar. 25*, 1460.
- Education
  - Board—Successor to Late Judge Carton, *Mar. 18*, 448.
  - Christian Brothers' Schools, Pupils in, and Grants to, *Mar. 14*, 197.
  - Intermediate Grant, Amount of, *Mar. 14*, 196.
  - Legislative Proposals of the Government, *Mar. 20–21*, 872.
  - National School Teachers
    - Civil Rights of, Amendment of Rules as to, *Mar. 27*, 1827.
    - Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1430.
    - Diplomas, System of Awarding, *Mar. 26*, 1664.
    - No. 5,735, Case of—Outside Work permitted to Teachers, *Mar. 25*, 1463.
    - Number of and Increments Awarded to, *Mar. 22*, 1301.
    - Salaries
      - Comparison of Scale with that Paid in England and Scotland, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1427–1430.
      - Salaries Withdrawn during 1906, *Mar. 18*, 426.
  - Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1419–1435.
  - Report of Commissioners of National Education — Tabling, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1827.
  - Residences of Teachers, Loans and Plans for, *Mar. 20–21*, 869.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Education—*cont.*
  - Schools
    - Amount Available for Building and Improving, *Mar. 18*, 426; *Mar. 20–21*, 865.
    - Grant for Erection, Decision as to, *Mar. 20–21*, 867; *Mar. 23*, 1425–1427.
      - Amount actually Issued, *Mar. 27*, 1775.
      - Applications for, Procedure as to, *Mar. 27*, 1775.
    - Maintenance, Funds Available for *Mar. 27*, 1826.
    - Non-vested Schools, Grant Available for Improving, *Mar. 25*, 1480.
    - Rebuilding, Expenditure of Sum Voted for, *Mar. 20–21*, 864, 865.
  - System of Policy with Regard to, *Mar. 23*, 1419–1425.
- Ennis State Inebriate Reformatory—Admissions and Discharges, *Mar. 19*, 648.
- Ensor Estate—Reinstatement Claim of F. Murphy, *Mar. 19*, 676.
- Evans Estate, Rent Collection on, *Mar. 18*, 441.
- Evictions—Reinstatement Claims
  - Number of—Cause for Eviction, etc., *Mar. 13*, 45, 46; *Mar. 25*, 1476.
  - Sons of Deceased Evicted Tenant, Procedure as to Reinstatement of, *Mar. 13*, 46.
- Falcarragh—Purchase Proposals for Portion of Earl of Leitrim's Estate, *Mar. 20–21*, 869.
- Farmers, Facilities for Loans to, for Improving Dwellings, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 198.
- Fisheries—Brand for Irish Cured Fish—Publication of Report of Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1824.
- Fuller Estate Untenanted Land, Purchase of, *Mar. 26*, 1663.
- Galway Prison—Case of M. Hawes, *Mar. 13*, 17; *Mar. 20–21*, 866.
- Goodall Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 13*, 49.
- Gooseberry Mildew—Efficacy of Spraying with Fungicide, *Mar. 14*, 212.
- Gort Board of Guardians, Circumstances of Surcharge on, *Mar. 20–21*, 868.
- Government Departments
  - Powers and Duties of, *Mar. 22*, 1301.
  - Total Cost for 1905 and 1906, *Mar. 27*, 1777.
- Gradwell, M. R., Estate of—Untenanted Land, Purchase of, *Mar. 25*, 1480.

[*cont.*

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Grangemore Estate of Major Conlon, Disposal of, *Mar. 22*, 1281.
- Gregg Estate, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1477.
- Hall-marking of Silver, Charge for, *Mar. 20–21*, 870.
- Harlech Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Alice Reilly, *Mar. 26*, 1667.
- Hayes Estate
  - Reinstatement Claim of R. Cooke, *Mar. 25*, 1461.
  - Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 18*, 427.
- Housing of the Working Classes—Legislation to extend Act to Urban Labourers, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 213.
- Hudson Estate—Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants, *Mar. 18*, 444.
- Inchigeela, Letter Robbery at, Efforts made to trace Offenders, *Mar. 27*, 1824.
- Ingham Estate—Reinstatement Claim of P. McConnell, *Mar. 14*, 200.
- Innishlyre Harbour Construction, Proposals for, *Mar. 18*, 445, 446.
- Irish Education Act, 1892, Disposal of Fines under, *Mar. 18*, 443.
- Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23*, 1432–1435.
  - Rule as to Appointment of Teachers in Irish-speaking Districts, *Mar. 14*, 196.
- Judges, Powers vested in by Commission, *Mar. 26*, 1670, 1671.
- Kavanagh Estate, Existing Tenants' Interest, Power as to Purchase of, *Mar. 25*, 1476.
- Kells Rural District Council—Reason for serving Notices on Tenants, *Mar. 19*, 650.
- Kingstown
  - Evictions, Possibility of Preventing, *Mar. 27*, 1828.
  - Houses closed on certain Estates owing to Insanitation, *Mar. 25*, 1455.
- Knocklong—Sale Proposals for Property of the Misses Cooper, *Mar. 26*, 1667.
- Knockrow—Outrage and alleged Intimidation at Farm of P. Raftery, *Mar. 26*, 1668, 1669.
- La Touche Estate—Reinstatement Claim of F. Donlon, *Mar. 19*, 677.
- Labourers Act
  - Cottage Sites, Selection of Untenanted Land for, proposed, *Mar. 20–21*, 863.
  - Labourers residing in Urban Districts and working in Rural District, Application to, *Mar. 25*, 1464.
  - Section 8, Powers conferred by, *Mar. 20–21*, 862.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Land Act, 1903, Effect and Policy of, *Mar. 13*, 63.
- Land Commission Staff, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 639, 640.
- Land Purchase
  - Delay in dealing with Cases, *Mar. 14*, 212; *Mar. 27*, 1770.
  - Landlords using Legal Oppressive Methods for Rent Recovery—Refusal of Aid of Forces of the Crown in serving Writs, etc., *Mar. 20–21*, 863.
  - Maps of Estates, Cost of Copies of, *Mar. 26*, 1630.
  - Public Trustee, Terms of Appointment, *Mar. 27*, 1771.
  - Timber on Estates offered for Sale, Power to regulate cutting down, *Mar. 25*, 1479.
  - Transaction in December, 1906, and January and February, 1907, *Mar. 13*, 14, 46.
- Land Valuation, etc., Officials engaged in—System of making Appointments, *Mar. 13*, 45.
- Langley Estate—Reinstatement Claims of M. Morriss and E. Kealy, *Mar. 27*, 1774.
- Law Courts
  - Lord Lieutenant's Levee, Suspension of Sitting in Order to Attend, *Mar. 22*, 1283.
  - Promotion System in High Court, *Mar. 22*, 1286.
- Leahy Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 18*, 425.
- Licensing (Ireland) Act, 1902—Decision as to Renewal, *Mar. 19*, 677.
- Leitrim—Boycotting of the Bradys, *Mar. 13*, 48, 49.
- Limerick, Condition of—Remarks of Mr. Justice Johnson, *Mar. 13*, 56.
- Lisanover Ranch, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 15*, 342.
- Lisnagera—Area of Land Purchased by C. Burnett, *Mar. 14*, 199.
- Listowel Estate Untenanted Land, Purchase Proposals for, *Mar. 19*, 677.
- Lixnaw, Prevention of Floods in, *Mar. 26*, 1631.
- Local Government Board Inspectors, Salaries of, *Mar. 20*, 21, 864.
- Longworth Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 20–21*, 872.
- Loughrea
  - Gaelic Athletic Association—Speech made by Mr. P. Larkin, *Mar. 13*, 53.
  - Irish Interpreter, Date of filling Vacancy, Remuneration offered, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1776.

[*cont.*

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*

McCormack, Miss, Estate of, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25*, 1477, 1478.

Magheragallon Pier, Improvement of—Petition from Fishermen, *Mar. 27*, 1778.

Magistrates, Resident, Procedure in appointing, *Mar. 13*, 48.

Mercers Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 14*, 191.

Monasterevan Canal, Condition of, *Mar. 22*, 1286.

Moohan—Negotiations as to Farm occupied by T. Kirby, *Mar. 26*, 1666.

Morley Estate—Case of Ellen Kiernan, *Mar. 13*, 18.

Mount Pleasant Grazing Farms, Apportionment of, by Mr. P. Joyce, *Mar. 27*, 1776.

Mountshannon Estate — Reinstatement Claims of Evicted Tenants, Decision as to, *Mar. 25*, 1462.

Mullingar Rural District Council Letter to Local Government Board, Purport of and Reply to, *Mar. 20–21*, 864.

New Bridge Breakwater, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 58.

New Quay—Charges against Sergeant Crummy and Constable O'Shea, *Mar. 14*, 212.

O'Dwyer Estate—Annual Rental, Sale Price, etc., *Mar. 25*, 1475.

Oughterard—Cause of Typhus Fever Outbreak, *Mar. 22*, 1284.

Pakenham-Mahon Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25*, 1518.

Persons receiving Police Protection on 1st March, *Mar. 13*, 11; *Mar. 20–21*, 826.

Circumstances of Cases, *Mar. 20–21*, 865.

Petty Session Courts—Instructions as to Good Friday Sittings, *Mar. 27*, 1778.

Plunketstown—Case of Garret Stynes, *Mar. 20–21*, 871.

Ponsonby Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mr. E. Flavin, *Mar. 18*, 442.

Poor Law—Charges against Officials—Defrayment of Legal Costs, *Mar. 26*, 1630.

Posseckstown—Reinstatement Claim of Miss M. M. Clarke, *Mar. 20–21*, 823.

Potato Crop, Failure of—Relief Measures, Distribution of Potato Seed, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1772, 1773.

Privy Council—Judicial Attendance at Meetings, *Mar. 22*, 1282, 1283.

Rathcline—Reinstatement Claim of J. Mullooly, *Mar. 19*, 649.

Reenard Pier, Decision as to, *Mar. 26*, 1662.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*

Rineen, Fishery Pier at, Decision as to Construction of, *Mar. 27*, 1824.

Roman Catholic University, Legislative Proposals for, *Mar. 22*, 1285.

Roscommon

Condition of—Report of Police, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1669, 1670.

Intimidation in, *Mar. 14*, 202.

Land Commission Sittings, Date of, *Mar. 18*, 440.

Roscrea Housing Scheme, Reason for refusing Sanction to, *Mar. 26*, 1631.

Rowe's Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25*, 1481.

Rowley Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. B. Moran, *Mar. 20–21*, 868.

Ryan's Estate—Threatening Letter sent to Mr. H. Burns, *Mar. 13*, 55, 56.

Scott and Cleaver Estate, Purchase proposals for, *Mar. 27*, 1775.

Simpson Estate—Reinstatement Claim of M. Regan, *Mar. 19*, 676.

Sligo County Council Printing Contract—Decision of Auditor, *Mar. 22*, 1303.

Sonnagh—Case of Lennon Girls, *Mar. 19*, 649.

Stewartstown Disturbance, Cause of, *Mar. 27*, 1825, 1826.

Streamstown—Annuity payable on Estate purchased by Commissioners, *Mar. 22*, 1281.

Sugar Beet Cultivation—Result of Experiments, *Mar. 26*, 1664.

Swinford Landlords and Allegations as to Rent Recovery by, *Mar. 13*, 58.

Tannamore Orange Meeting—Speech of Mr. A. Lloyd, *Mar. 26*, 1668.

Tonlagee—Case of Mr. Beirne, *Mar. 18*, 425.

Trade Statistics, Date of Issuing, *Mar. 27*, 1823.

Tralee, Condition of—Report of Constabulary, etc., *Mar. 22*, 1284.

Tubbercurry Potato Crop, Condition of, *Mar. 20–21*, 869.

Vandeleur Estate Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of, *Mar. 19*, 674, 675.

Vaugh Estate—Reinstatement Claim of J. Doherty, *Mar. 20–21*, 824.

Westmeath Untenanted Land, Acquisition of, *Mar. 13*, 44.

Wexford Land Purchase—Delay in inspecting Estates, *Mar. 25*, 1464.

Youghal Bay Seals, Damage caused by and Rewards offered for destroying, *Mar. 13*, 57.

Blacklion

Taylor, Mr. T. E., Boycotting of—Protection afforded by Police, etc.

Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 675.

Bobbinite
Report of Committee Presented, *Mar. 26,* 1622.

Boland, Mr. J. P. [Kerry, S.]
Cooscroum Landing Place, Decision as to, *Mar. 26,* 1662.
Curraghmore—Seed Potatoes, Seed Oats, and Lime, Proposals for Supplying, *Mar. 25,* 1518.
Education—Residences of Teachers, Loans and Plans for, *Mar. 20–21,* 869.
Fisheries—Brand for Irish-cured Fish—Publication of Report of Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1823.
Hibernian Academy
Commission Report
Opportunity for Discussion, *Mar. 13,* 70.
Recommendations, Decision as to, *Mar. 13,* 70, 73–77.
Control over by the Board of Agriculture, Objections to, *Mar. 13,* 74.
Grant to, *Mar. 13,* 71, 73.
Site of, Proposals as to Removal, etc., *Mar. 13,* 71, 72.
Leahy Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 18,* 425.
Reenard Pier, Decision as to, *Mar. 26,* 1662.
Rineen, Fishery Pier at, Decision as to Construction of, *Mar. 27,* 1824.
Trade Statistics, Irish, Date of Issuing, *Mar. 27,* 1823.

Borax Consolidated Bill
l. Rep. Mar. 19,* 597.

Boston Spa Gas Bill
c. 2R.* *Mar. 18,* 413.

Bottomley, Mr. H. W. [Hackney, S.]
Transvaal—Particulars of Johannesburg Immorality Prosecution, *Mar. 13,* 27.

Bourney
Untenanted Lands belonging to Messrs. J. Lloyd, J. Bennett, G. Mitchell and Surgeon-General Roe, Purchase of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. K. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 446, 447.

Bowles, Mr. G. S. [Lambeth, Norwood]
Admiralty, Canvas supplied by Private Firm, *Mar. 19,* 652.
Africa, South, Garrison in
Refund to Messrs. Wilson and Worthington, *Mar. 14,* 206.
Standerton, Supply of Water to, *Mar. 14,* 205.
Army (Annual) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 596.

Bowles, Mr. G. S.—*cont.*
Blocking Motion of Member for Barnstaple, Effect of, *Mar. 25,* 1524.
Blocking Motions and Bills put on Order Paper to Prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, Alleged, *Mar. 27,* 1883–1886.
Cape Colony—Extra Duty of Simonstown Naval Prison Warders, *Mar 19,* 652.
Committee of Defence
Constitution of, Names of Members, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1828.
Esher, Lord, Power to call for Papers, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1829.
Consolidated Fund Appropriation Act, 1905, Powers of Treasury under Section 5, *Mar 25,* 1427, 1499–1502, 1524.
Education—Welsh Department, Appointments to—Qualifications of Messrs. Davies and Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13,* 125.
Esher, Lord
Attendances and Functions of, *Mar. 27,* 1794
Position and Services of, *Mar. 25,* 1487.
Mesopotamia—Concessions by the Porte, *Mar. 26,* 1642.
Navy
Cap Ribbons, Tenders for, *Mar. 14,* 216.
Estimates—Surplus on one Vote applied for Deficit on Another, *Mar. 14.* 229, 230.
Medical Treatment for Sailors, Regulations as to, *Mar. 26,* 1632.
Portsmouth Dockyard Ashes, Removal of, *Mar. 18,* 449.
Shottes Boys' Training Establishment—Allocation of Building Contract, *Mar. 18,* 449.
Persia, Mineral Oil Concession in, *Mar. 22,* 1265.
Post Office Employees—Regulations as to Residence on Licensed Premises, *Mar. 20–21,* 858.
Railway Companies, Complaints against in 1904, 1905, and 1906, *Mar. 20–21,* 853.
Standing Committees—Bills the Second Reading of which was Taken after 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25,* 1609.
Turkish Customs Duties — Allocation Proceeds, *Mar. 14,* 226; *Mar. 26,* 1640.
Weatherley, C., Case of, *Mar. 18,* 467.

Brace, Mr. W. [Glamorgan, S.]
Great Western, London and North-Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R, *Mar. 19,* 746–750.

Bramsdon, Mr. T. A. [Portsmouth]
  Army—Case of Company Quartermaster Sergeant Bradley, *Mar. 19*, 653.
  Greenwich Hospital Age Pensions, Conditions of granting, *Mar. 20–21*, 823.
  Navy
    Carpenter Warrant Officers, Decision as to, *Mar. 14*, 269.
    Dockyard Writers, Petitions from, *Mar. 14*, 210.
    Portsmouth Dockyard Electrical Department, Ventilation of, *Mar. 19*, 658.
    Seamen's Kit, Provision of, Free of Cost, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 269.
    Shortage or Special Service Men, Conditions of Employment, *Mar. 14*, 269, 270.
  Portsmouth—Admiralty Coal supplied to Russian Ships, Instructions as to, *Mar. 27*, 1785.

Branch, Mr. J. [Middlesex, Enfield]
  Great Eastern Railway Cheap Tickets to, Discharged Government Workmen, Date of Issuing, *Mar. 22*, 1269.

Bridgeman, Mr. W. C. [Shropshire, Oswestry]
  Africa, South—Land Settlement—Progress made with, and Government Policy as to, *Mar. 18*, 457, 458, 552, 553.
  Butter and Margarine Bill, Date of taking, *Mar. 22*, 1275.
  Canadian Anti-Dumping Law—Application to Goods from United States, *Mar. 22*, 1270.
  Colonies, Correspondence with—Procedure in Publishing, *Mar. 14*, 217.
  Consolidated Fund, (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 552; 3R., *Mar. 20*, 982–984.
  Education
    Attendance, Basis of Calculating, *Mar. 18*, 477.
    Scholarships Scheme, Working of, *Mar. 13*, 112, 113.
    Welsh Department, Appointments to—Qualifications of Messrs. Davies and Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13*, 111, 112; *Mar. 20*, 982–984.
  Land Values, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1757.
  Llanychan School, Reason for Local Authority asking for Permission to cease maintaining, *Mar. 14*, 242; *Mar. 20–21*, 857.
  Poor Rate, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment of, *Mar. 26*, 1758.
  Railways—Overcrowding in Baker Street and Waterloo Trains, *Mar. 19*, 648.
  Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1757, 1758.

Bright, Mr. J. A. [Oldham]
  Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 367.

Brighton
  Post Office Telegraph Department Vacancy, Proposals for Filling.
    Q. Mr. Ridsdale; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 26*, 1624, 1625.

Bristol
  Trams—Bylaws as to Miners.
    Q. Mr. H. Davies; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 239.

Bristol Corporation Bill
  c. 2R., *Mar. 13*, 8.

"Britannia" Royal Naval College
  Barracks at, Original Estimate of Cost, etc.
    Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27*, 1781.

British Museum
  Reading Room, Closing of—Provision for Accommodation of Readers.
    Q. Mr. Paul; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1470.
    Q. Mr. Radford; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1655.
    Q. Sir G. Parker; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 27*, 1828.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill
  c. Rep. Mar. 22*, 1263.
    Con. Mar. 27*, 1765.

Brunner, Sir J. T. [Cheshire, Northwich]
  London, and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 773, 774.

Bryce, Mr. J. A. [Inverness Burghs]
  Alness Ferry Tenancy Dispute, *Mar. 27*, 1821.
  Fisheries—Scope of Scottish Riparian Rights Inquiry, *Mar, 26*, 1661.
  India
    Budget, Date of taking, *Mar. 19*, 642.
    Railway Inquiry, Proposals as to, *Mar. 26*, 1623.

Buchanan, Mr. T. R.—*Financial Secretary, War Office* [Perthshire, E.]
  Army (Annual) Bill No. 2, *Mar. 18*, 596.

Buckhaven Dock Bill
  l. 2R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.

Bude Gas Bill
*c. Rep.** *Mar. 14,* 187.
*Con.** *Mar. 22,* 1261.
3R.* *Mar. 26,* 1620.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 26,* 1617.

Budget
Statement, Date of making.
Q. Mr. A. Chamberlain; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25,* 1503.

Building Lands (Scotland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 13,* 66.

Bull, Sir W. J. [Hammersmith]
Customs Statistical Office—Petition from Assistant Clerks (New Class), *Mar. 22,* 1274.
Debt, Commitments to Prison for—Increase in Number of, Restriction of present Powers, proposed, *Mar. 20,* 940–943.
Prisoners confined for over Twenty Years, Information as to, *Mar. 22,* 1299.

Bunnahow
Grass Lands, Disposal of.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 15,* 342.

Burghclere, Lord
Attendance of Peers, Increase in, *Mar. 19,* 602, 604.
Business, Increased Volume of, *Mar. 19,* 603.
Chairman and Speaker of House of Lords Increasing Powers of, proposed, *Mar. 19,* 605, 606.
Deputy-Speaker, Appointment of, proposed, *Mar. 19,* 606.
Peers Sitting and Voting without having taken the Oath, Procedure in Cases of, *Mar. 19,* 607, 620, 621.
Procedure in Debate—Appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry into Standing Orders relating to, proposed, *Mar. 19,* 600–608.

Burial Grounds
New Grounds, Power of Local Government Board to prevent Opening of, in Unsuitable Sites—Great Stanmore Case.
Q. Mr. Gibb; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18,* 438.

Burke, Mr. F. H. [King's County, Tullamore]
Baily Estate, Untenanted Land, Purchase of, *Mar. 26,* 1663.
Dublin Science College Librarian, Proposals for Appointment of, *Mar. 13,* 50.
Edenderry, Summonses—Legality of Service by Constabulary, *Mar. 25,* 1460.
Fuller Estate, Untenanted Land, Purchase of, *Mar. 26,* 1663.

Burma
Railway Extension towards Kunlōn, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Mar. 25,* 1490.

Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill
l. Report from the Select Committee, *Mar. 21,* 1205.

Burnley Corporation Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 22,* 1262.
2R.* *Mar. 27,* 1765.

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*President of the Local Government Board* [Battersea]
Burial Grounds, New, Control of Local Government Board over, *Mar. 18,* 438.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Age of Persons attacked, etc., *Mar. 18,* 471, 472.
County Council Meetings, Record of Attendance of Members at, *Mar. 15,* 341.
Disinfectants, Standardisation, Proposals for, *Mar. 14,* 233.
Hollesley Bay Labour Colony, working of Experiment, *Mar. 27,* 1874.
Kinson—Objections to Erection of Infectious Diseases Hospital for Bournemouth, *Mar. 20–21,* 855.
Leicester, Unemployment in, Causes of and Measures taken to relieve, *Mar. 27,* 1872.
Local Government Act, 1894, Appeals under Section 9, Sub-section 4, *Mar. 20–21,* 836.
Local Government Board Report (1906–7), Date of Publishing, *Mar. 14,* 207.
London City Corporation Grant to Committees, Expenditure of, *Mar. 22,* 1272.
London County Council
Accounts, Audit of, *Mar. 18,* 470, 471.
Loans, Particulars as to, *Mar. 18,* 470, 471.
Manchester Unemployed—Decision as to Grant for Farm Colony, *Mar. 13,* 37; *Mar. 26,* 1652; *Mar. 27,* 1876, 1877.
Metropolitan Borough Council Accounts—Proposals for issue of Order, *Mar. 19,* 645.
Metropolitan Water Board Accounts, Order as to, *Mar. 19,* 661.
Milk—Proposals for Municipal Depots, *Mar. 14,* 190.
Newport, Unemployed in—Refusal of Grant by Local Government Board, *Mar. 27,* 1875.
Norwood Poor Law School—Number of Children suffering from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Whooping Cough, *Mar. 27,* 1811.

[cont.

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Parish Council Elections, Irregularities at—Revision of Proceedings, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1629.
- Poor Law
  - Administration in London, Cost of, *Mar. 22*, 1295.
  - Children
    - Boarding-out with Institutions such as Dr. Barnardo's Homes proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1812.
    - Illegitimate — Registration of Births in Workhouses, *Mar. 14*, 235.
  - Cost of, in London and Provinces, *Mar. 20–21*, 837.
  - Expenditure out of Loans during 1906, *Mar. 19*, 645.
  - Filial Liability of Married Daughters—Proposals for Amendment of Law, *Mar. 18*, 438.
  - Labour Tests Committee Report, Decision as to, *Mar. 26*, 1652.
  - Married Applicants, Conditions of supplying Medical Relief to, *Mar. 22*, 1295.
  - Relief Statistics for 1835, *Mar. 25*, 1466.
- Poplar—Cost of Hutton Schools, *Mar. 26*, 1627.
- Ramsey, Lord de, Allotment Holders given Notice to quit, Number for whom Allotments have been found, *Mar. 25*, 1512.
- Rates and Rating—Assessment of Licensed Premises, *Mar. 18*, 471.
- Rural District Medical Officers and Inspectors of Nuisances, Salaries of, *Mar. 18*, 437.
- Sewage Disposal—Date of Introducing Bill dealing with, *Mar. 27*, 1787.
- Somers Town—Cause of Insanitary State of Little Clarendon Street, *Mar. 14*, 235.
- Tuberculosis
  - Cows Suffering from—Disposal of Carcases, *Mar. 22*, 1294.
  - Pulmonary, Metropolitan Parochial Infirmaries with Special Wards for, *Mar. 20–21*, 836.
- Unemployed
  - Afforestation, Employment at, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 190.
- Unemployed
  - Distress Committees
    - Accounts, Order to regulate, *Mar. 19*, 661.
    - Grants to, *Mar. 22*, 1273.

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Unemployed—*cont.*
  - Grants
    - Allocation of, *Mar. 27*, 1811, 1871.
    - Expenditure of, *Mar. 13*, 36–38.
    - Further Grant in 1908, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 234.
    - Refusals, Particulars of, *Mar. 26*, 1653.
    - Renewing, Proposals for, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
    - Wales, Amount given to, *Mar. 14*, 236.
  - Women, Reason for withholding Assistance to, *Mar. 27*, 1870.
- Unemployed Workmen Act
  - Administration of, *Mar. 27*, 1870–1881.
  - Amendment of, Proposals as to, *Mar. 27*, 1875, 1876.
  - Hardship imposed by Qualification for Assistance in Case of W. G. Jex, *Mar. 13*, 38.
- United States, Unemployment Returns for New York State, *Mar. 18*, 473; *Mar. 19*, 665.
- Vaccination
  - Acts, Administration of — Placing Officer under Control of Guardians, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 472.
  - Calves used at National Vaccine Establishment, 1906, *Mar. 19*, 662.
  - Cases of Olive Hunt and W. Kellam, *Mar. 20–21*, 837.
  - Reports as to Results, Reason for Non-publication of, *Mar. 27*, 1809.
  - Wenham, Mabel Ellen, Death of, *Mar. 27*, 1810.
- Ware—German Farm Colony, Information given in Report, etc., *Mar. 14*, 234.
- Washburn Valley Afforestation—Conditions of Employment of Men, *Mar. 19*, 662–665; *Mar. 27*, 1808, 1872, 1873.
- Whisky, Definition of—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 14*, 235.
- Workhouses
  - Aged Married Couples, proposals for Permitting to Live Together, *Mar. 22*, 1273.
  - Casual Paupers, Rule as to Discharge of, *Mar. 26*, 1652.

Burnyeat, Mr. W. J. D. [Whitehaven]
- Motor Omnibuses—Obstruction Caused by Breakdowns in Congested Streets, *Mar. 20 21*, 824.

Burtonport
- Harbour Improvement, Decision as to. *Q.* Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 448.

Business of the House

Course of.
  Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. A. Chamberlain, *Mar. 14*, 254, 255; Mr. J. A. Pease, *Mar. 15*, 403; Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 22*, 1305; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1306; Sir F. Banbury, 1308, 1309; Sir H. Fowler, 1308; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1309; Mr. G. Whiteley, 1310; Mr. J. Redmond, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26*, 1673, 1675; Mr. G. Whiteley, Sir. A. Acland-Hood, 1764.

Congested State of, Impossibility of Dealing with, under Present System.
  Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Mar. 20*, 916–920.

Distribution of Time, Necessity for Alteration in.
  Os. Mr. A. Chamberlain, *Mar. 20*, 897–899.

Bute

Lamlash and Kildonan Coastguard, Salary Paid for Medical Attendance on.
  Q. Mr. Lamont; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 20–21*, 837.

Butson Estate

Sale proposals for.
  Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 867.

Butter and Margarine Bill

Date of Taking.
  Q. Mr. C. Warner; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 214.
  Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 252.
  Qs. Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher, Mr. Bridgeman; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 22*, 1275, 1276.

Second Reading, Date of Taking.
  Q. Mr. A. L. Stanley; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 25*, 1456.
  Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 25*, 1523, 1524.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*Postmaster-General* [Tower Hamlets, Poplar]

Aberdeen—Woodside and Killybrewster Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 240.

Ardcath Post Office, Establishment of, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1522.

Ballyglunin Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 14*, 251.

Battle Post Office Staff, Information as to, *Mar. 13*, 39.

Brighton Telegraph Staff Vacancy, proposals for Filling, *Mar. 26*, 1625.

Caldercruix Post Office Accommodation, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 13*, 14.

Canada, Postage on Periodicals, etc., sent to, *Mar. 14*, 241, 242; *Mar. 27*, 1812, 1813.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*cont.*

Cashel Postmastership, Appointment to, *Mar. 20–21*, 834.

Cork County Telephone Extension, proposals as to, *Mar. 20*, 834, 874; *Mar. 25*, 1467.

Donegal, Postal Facilities in Certain Places, Improvement of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 65.

Dublin Post Office—Reply to Memorial from Postmen, *Mar. 13*, 14.

House of Commons Postal Staff—Payment for Work during Prolonged or Extra Sittings, *Mar. 27*, 1788.

Innellan Pier Parcel Hampers, Post Office Charges on, *Mar. 26*, 1624.

Kerry Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 25*, 1522.

Leeds
  Learners, Appointment of, *Mar. 26*, 1655.
  Sorting Staff, Overtime of, *Mar. 26*, 1654.

Letters, Addresses Hired for Receipt of—Frauds Perpetrated, etc., *Mar. 14*, 240.

Licensed Premises, Regulations as to Residence of Employees on, *Mar. 20–21*, 858.

Londonderry, Postal Facilities in certain Places, Improvement of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 65.

Mail Cart Drivers, Scope of Inquiry as to, *Mar. 14*, 208.

Mail Service
  American Mails
    Carriage by White Star Line, *Mar. 13*, 13.
    Decision as to Port of Arrival, *Mar. 25*, 1467.
  Australia
    Letters, etc., sent to, in 1906, *Mar. 22*, 1297, 1298.
    Payment for Carriage of, *Mar. 26*, 1628.
  Hong Kong and Liverpool—Particulars of Contract, *Mar. 20*, 859, 860; *Mar. 23*, 1368, 1369.
  New Zealand Arrangements, Routes for, *Mar. 14*, 241.
  South African Mails—Revision of Arrangements proposed, *Mar. 20–21*, 858.

Mullingar, Telephone Extension to, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 644.

Newcastle West, Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 13*, 65.

Newspapers, Charges on, *Mar. 26*, 1624.

Postage on Societies' Journals, Reduction of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 39.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*cont.*
- Postage Stamps, Automatic Machines for Supply of, *Mar. 26*, 1653, 1654.
- Rules for Head-Postmasters, etc., Access of Officials to, *Mar. 13*, 39.
- Savings Banks
  - Insurance Through in Respect of Workmen's Compensation—Date of Report of Farrer Committee, *Mar. 27*, 1788, 1813.
  - Irish Business, Transfer of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 679.
- Taylorstown Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 13*, 65.
- Telegraph Service
  - Learners, Employment of—Number of Ex-Soldiers Appointed, etc., *Mar. 22*, 1296.
  - Messengers' Health, Effect of Docket System on, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
  - Temporary Assistants, Reason for Employment of, *Mar. 25*, 1454.
- Telephone Service—Private Telephones, Expediting Installation of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 642.
- Thornley Postman, Hours of Duty and Pay of, *Mar. 19*, 667.
- Tuam—Postal Service with Limerick, Improvement of proposed, *Mar. 14*, 251.
- Uniform Contracts, Information as to, *Mar. 18*, 421.
- Wireless Telegraphy—Convention, Date of Coming into Force and Opportunity for Discussing, *Mar. 14*, 240.

Byles, Mr. W. P. [Salford, N.]
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1088.
- Channel Tunnel Scheme, Reason for Government Disapproval of, *Mar. 26*, 1673.
- Hague Conference
  - Discussion of Disarmament Proposals, *Mar. 18*, 462; *Mar. 25*, 1496.
  - Names of British Delegates, *Mar. 14*, 222; *Mar. 26*, 1672.
- Hull Juvenile Offenders, Method of Dealing With, *Mar. 25*, 1506.
- Salford Magistrates—Remarks and Course of Action Taken in Cases of Passive Resisters, *Mar. 25*, 1505.

Byrne's Divorce Bill

l. 2R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.
Com., *Mar. 19*, 598.
*Rep.** *Mar. 19*, 599; *Mar. 20*, 781.
3R.* *Mar. 21*, 1205.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 22*, 1262.
2R.* *Mar. 27*, 1765.

Caldercruix
- Post Office Accommodation, Inadequacy of.
  - *Q.* Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13*, 13, 14.

Caldwell, Mr. J. [Lanark, Mid]
- Bristol Corporation Bill, 2R., *Mar. 13*, 8.

Calico
- Dressing put in by Manufacturers—Case of Ann Wilson.
  - *Q.* Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26*, 1647.

Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M. [Dublin University]
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1024, 1155, 1156, 1158.

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*First Lord of the Treasury* [Stirling Burghs]
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1117–1119, 1173–1175.
- Bills
  - Private Members' Bills having obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1708.
  - Standing Committees, Reference of all Bills to unless otherwise Ordered, proposed.
    - Bills having passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than Two-thirds, to be sent to Grand Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1599.
    - Bills the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m. Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1610, 1613; *Mar. 26*, 1678.
    - Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1720–1722.
    - Motion for referring Bills to, Proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1686, 1692, 1694, 1695, 1701.
    - Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1590.
- Blocking Motions and Bills, Proposals for dealing with, *Mar. 27*, 1830.
- British Museum Reading-room, Closing of Accommodation for Students, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1828.
- Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 14*, 254, 255; *Mar. 22*, 1306; *Mar. 26*, 1673, 1675.
- Butter and Margarine Bill, Date of taking, *Mar. 14*, 214, 252; *Mar. 22*, 1276; *Mar. 25*, 1456, 1524.
- Channel Tunnel Bill—Attitude of the Government towards, *Mar. 21*, 1203; *Mar. 26*, 1673.

[*cont.*

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*cont.*
- Clerkenwell County Court—Case of Mr. C. G. Hunt, *Mar. 14*, 251.
- Committee of Defence
  - Constitution of, Names of Members, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1828.
  - Esher, Lord, Power of, to call for Papers, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1829.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill
  - Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 21*, 1173–1175.
  - Royal Assent, Circumstances of Granting, *Mar. 22*, 1306, 1307.
- Corrupt Practices Act, Amendment, Proposals for, *Mar. 14*, 238.
- Education—Grants for New Schools, Sum Voted for, Effect of Section 96 of Act of 1870, *Mar. 25*, 1523.
- Education (Scotland) Bill—Application of Provisions of, to England, *Mar. 20*, 908.
- Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 256.
- Fishery Rights, Proposals for Inquiry into, *Mar. 22*, 1276.
- Germany—Prevention of Exportation of British Workers to replace Hamburg Strikers, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1276.
- Government Contracts—Observance of Fair Wages Clause, *Mar. 18*, 487.
- Hague Conference
  - Permanent Congress of Nations, Establishment as, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1671.
  - Programme and Names of British Delegates, *Mar. 26*, 1672.
- International Exhibition, Proposals as to, *Mar. 26*, 1672.
- Jamaica Earthquake—Grant for Relief of Distress, Decision as to, *Mar. 25*, 1523.
- Law Courts—Appeal Cases Pending, *Mar. 20–21*, 840.
- Licensing Bill, Proposals for, *Mar. 25*, 1522, 1523.
- Local Bodies, Election of Women to Serve on—Date of Introduction of Bill, *Mar. 27*, 1791.
- *London Gazette* — Rule as to Publication of Grants to Military and Naval Officers, *Mar. 14*, 193.
- Magistrates
  - Appointments since 1st February, 1906, *Mar. 26*, 1623.
  - Competence of, to Administer the Law, after Prosecution for Refusal to pay Rates—Towcester Case, *Mar. 20–21*, 875.
- Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under, and Proposals as to Renewal, *Mar. 26*, 1673; *Mar. 27*, 1847.

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*cont.*
- Parliament
  - Dinner, Interval for, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 486.
  - Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Mar. 14*, 255.
- Public Accounts Committee Reports, Opportunity for Discussing, *Mar. 18*, 487.
- Scottish Supply, Date of taking, *Mar. 26*, 1672.
- Session, Period for, *Mar. 20–21*, 874.
- Sitting of the House on Wednesday, 27th March—Hour of Meeting, *Mar. 26*, 1673.
- Small Holdings Bill—Date of Introduction, *Mar. 27*, 1829.
- Small Holdings (Scotland) Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 254; *Mar. 26*, 1672.
- Spurious Sports Bill, Proposals as to Facilities for, *Mar. 14*, 253.
- Standing Committees
  - Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure, and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 889–896; *Mar. 25*, 1575–1578.
  - Manning of—Statistics as to, *Mar. 20*, 892–894.
  - Scottish Committee, Proposals as to, Establishing, *Mar. 20*, 892, 895.
- Standing Orders, Alterations proposed in, *Mar. 18*, 487.
- Trawling—Protection of Grounds against Illegal Trawling—Proposals for Inquiry, *Mar. 14*, 253, 254.
  - South Coast, Measures for Protection of, *Mar. 27*, 1791.
- Unemployed Grant, Scottish Share of, *Mar. 18*, 488.
- William III., Statue of, Site for Erection of, *Mar. 14*, 251.
- Women's Enfranchisement Bill, Facilities for, *Mar. 14*, 252.

Camperdown, Earl of
- Agriculture Holdings Act, 1906—Agreements, Invalidation of—Action of Certain Landlords in Issuing Notice to Tenants, etc., *Mar. 14*, 180, 181.
- Licensing Bill—Introduction in House of Lords, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 818.
- Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill—Introduction of, in House of Lords, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 4–6.

Canada
- Anti-Dumping Law—Application to Goods from United States.
  - *Q.* Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 22*, 1270.

[*cont.*

Canada—*cont.*
Cape Breton, British Immigrants at—Allegations as to Misleading Statements by Emigration Agency, etc.
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1635.
Commercial Treaties—Interpretation of Most Favoured-Nation Clause.
Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; A. Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1497.
Public Industrial Company Shares held by Persons Resident in United Kingdom.
Q. Sir G. Parker; A. Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25*, 1503.
Tariff
Arrangements with Germany—Decision as to Removal of Surtax, etc
Q. Sir G. Parker; A. Mr Churchill, *Mar. 14*, 218, 219
Negotiations with Austria, Information as to.
Q. Sir G. Parker; A. Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 14*, 219.
Preference for British Goods, New Proposal as to—Value of Re-Exports from Canada in 1905–6.
Q. Sir G. S. Robertson; A. Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13*, 35.
Tin-Plates, Imports of, from United States during 1903–6.
Q. Mr. Remnant; A. Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 27*, 1786.

Canterbury, Archbishop of
Licensing Bill—Date of Introduction of, *Mar. 20*, 816.

Cape Colony
Simonstown Naval Prison Warders, Extra Duty worked by.
Q. Mr. Bowles; A. Mr. Robertson, *Mar. 19*, 652.

Carbery Estate
Case of P. McCarthy.
Q. Mr. E. Barry; A. Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 199.

Carlile, Mr. E. H. [Herts., St. Albans]
Army, Reductions Effected in, *Mar. 14*, 331.
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1026, 1080, 1087.
Clerkenwell, County Court—Case of Mr. C. G. Hunt, *Mar. 14*, 251.
Education Acts
Administration of—Necessity for Identity of Interpretation, *Mar. 14*, 243.
Schools, New, Grant for, *Mar. 14*, 243.
Patent Law Amendment Bill—Intro., Date of, *Mar. 14*, 237.

Carmichael-O'Ferrall Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 197, 198.

Carnarvon Castle
Sum allotted to Maintenance and Repair of.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; A. Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 20–21*, 855, 856.

Carr-Gomm, Mr. H. W. [Southwark, Rotherhithe]
Telephones, Private, Expediting Installation of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 642.

Carrick-on-Suir
Convents and Christian Brothers' Schools, Valuation of.
Qs. Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 873.

Carrington, Earl—*President of the Board of Agriculture.*
Agriculture Holdings Act, 1906—Agreements, Invalidation of—Action of Certain Landlords in Issuing Notices of Tenants, etc., *Mar. 14*, 181–183.
Welsh Ponies, Deterioration in Breed of—Introduction of Legislation to deal with Question, proposed, *Mar. 21*, 1259.

Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H. [Dublin University]
Standing Committees—Bills the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1610.

Cashel
Postmastership, Appointment to.
Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 20–21*, 833, 834.

Castlereagh, Lord [Maidstone]
Sligo County Council Printing Contract—Decision of Auditor, *Mar. 22*, 1302.

Cavan
Indictable Offences in—Comparison with Sussex.
Qs. Mr. Dillon, Viscount Turnour; A. Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 19*, 675.

Cave, Mr. G. [Surrey, Kingston]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1078, 1079, 1083, 1088, 1127.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 969, 973, 974.
Discussion of, Opportunity for, *Mar. 20*, 969.
Law Courts
Appeal Cases pending, *Mar. 20–21*, 839
Court of Appeal, Congestion of Business in, *Mar. 20*, 973.

[*cont.*

Cave, Mr. G.—*cont.*
- Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 387.
- Standing Committees, Referring Bills to—Motion for, Proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1702.
- War Office, Surveyors' Salaries, Rate of Compared with those in other Public Departments, *Mar. 27*, 1790.

Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *Mar. 13*, 3.

Cavendish, Rt. Hon. V. C. W. [Derbyshire, W.]
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1005.

Cawdor, Earl
- Welsh Ponies, Deterioration in Breed of—Introduction of Legislation to Deal with Question, proposed, *Mar. 21*, 1260.

Cecil, Lord R. [Marylebone, E.]
- Army (Annual) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 589, 594, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1087, 1089, 1090, 1101–1103, 1105, 1106, 1118, 1128.
- Bills
    - Private Members' Bills having Obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently Adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1710.
    - Standing Committees, Referring Bills to.
        - Bills, the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m. Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1610, 1612.
        - Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1717.
- Blocking Motions and Bills put on the Order Paper to Prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, *Mar. 27*, 1889, 1890, 1891.
- Consolidated Fund Appropriation Act 1905—Powers of Treasury under Section 5, *Mar. 25*, 1501, 1502.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 552; *Mar. 20*, 967, 975–978.
    - Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20*, 967.
- Education
    - Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20*, 976.
    - Teachers' Salaries in Non-Provided Schools, *Mar. 18*, 476; *Mar. 25*, 1514.
    - Voluntary Schools, Policy as to, *Mar. 20*, 977, 978.

Cecil, Lord R.—*cont.*
- Education—*cont.*
    - Welsh Department
        - Appointments—Qualifications of Davies and Mr. O. Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13*, 96–98, 102.
        - Chief Inspector, Salary of, *Mar. 13*, 95, 96.
        - Duties and Powers of, *Mar. 13*, 96–99.
        - Grants to, *Mar. 13*, 951.
- Income-Tax Charge on Easter Offerings—Decision in Case of Cooper *v.* Blakiston, *Mar. 13*, 29.
- Judges—Allowances on Circuit, *Mar. 18* 466.
- New Hebrides
    - Convention, Possibility of Modifying, *Mar. 18*, 460, 461.
    - Native Labour—Rate of Wages, *Mar. 18*, 460.
- Newfoundland Fisheries Convention, Circumstances of Granting—Statute Law of the Colony over-ridden, *Mar. 18*, 552.
- Small Holdings and Cottages Bill
    - Proposals as to Presenting, *Mar. 26*, 1675.
    - Withdrawal of Motion for, in Order to Facilitate Discussion of Resolution proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1675.
- Standing Committees, Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise ordered, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 933–936; *Mar. 25*, 1531–1534.
- Standing Orders, Alterations proposed in, *Mar. 18*, 487.

Cecil, Mr. E. [Aston Manor]
- Africa, South—Land Settlement
    - Board, Proposals as to Establishment of, *Mar. 18*, 517, 518.
    - Progress made with, and Government Policy as to, *Mar. 18*, 517–519.
    - Sum allocated for, from War Contribution Loan, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 518.
- Colonial Conference—Reason for holding Navigation Conference, etc., *Mar. 18*, 474, 475; *Mar. 20–21*, 845.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 517, 518.
- Education—Welsh Department, Information as to, *Mar. 13*, 17, 40.
- Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1848.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Age of Persons attacked and Cause of Disease.
Qs. Mr. Lupton; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18,* 471, 472.

Ceylon
Colombo Port Trust, Decision as to Establishing.
Qs. Mr. Smeaton; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18,* 455.
Pearl Fisheries, Lease of, to a Private Company, Responsibility of Sir West Ridgway, etc.
Os. Mr. Smeaton, *Mar. 18,* 554–556.
Qs. Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. Smeaton; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 25,* 1492.

Chairman's Rulings
Army (Annual) Bill
Clause 3, Closure of, to Rest in Discretion of Chairman, *Mar. 21,* 1038, 1041.
Clause 8—Opportunity for Discussing with the Schedule, *Mar. 21,* 1074.
Criticism of Rulings of the Chair were not in Order, *Mar. 21,* 1156.
Irrelevant Observations, *Mar. 21,* 1006, 1008, 1009, 1027, 1046.
Matter Irrelevant to Clause under Discussion, Introduction of, *Mar. 21,* 1024, 1025, 1072, 1080, 1104, 1105, 1137, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1155, 1156.
Offensive Expressions must be withdrawn, *Mar. 21,* 1010, 1027, 1047.
Reflections on Action of the House in applying Closure were out of Order, *Mar. 21,* 1010, 1045.
Repetition in Debate was not Allowable, *Mar. 21,* 1012.
Vindictiveness, Imputations of, were not Necessarily out of Order, *Mar. 21,* 1118.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. [Worcestershire, E.]
Budget, Statement, Date of making, *Mar. 25,* 1503.
Business of the House
Course of, *Mar. 14,* 255.
Distribution of Time, Necessity for Alteration in, *Mar. 20,* 897–899.
Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill—Powers of Treasury under Section 5, *Mar. 25,* 1502.
Education (Scotland Bill, Application of, Provisions of, to England, *Mar. 20,* 908.
Iron and Steel, Statistics as to Export and Import (1900–5), *Mar. 25.* 1511.
London County Council Accounts, Audit of, *Mar. 18,* 471.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A.—*cont.*
Notice of Motion—Rule as to Amendment of Motion after giving Notice, *Mar. 19,* 680.
Public Accounts Committee Reports, Opportunity for Discussing, *Mar. 18,* 486.
Saturday Sitting, Proposals as to, *Mar. 22,* 1307, 1308.
Standing Committees
Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure, and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 20,* 896–911.
Private Members' Bills, Order of Precedence in Referring to Committee, *Mar. 20,* 903.
Scottish Committee, Proposals as to Establishing, *Mar. 20,* 897, 903, 904, 907–910.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith.

Channel Islands
Shipping Laws, Progress of Negotiations for Improving.
Q. Sir W. J. Collins; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 19,* 660.

Channel Tunnel
Construction of—Policy of the Government as to.
Os. Earl of Rosebery, *Mar. 21,* 1207; Earl of Crewe, 1208; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1209–1212.
Condemnation of Scheme by Government, Reasons for.
Q. Mr. Byles; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26,* 1673.
Statement [Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman], *Mar. 21,* 1023.
Os. Mr. A. J, Balfour, *Mar. 21,* 1024.

Channing, Sir F. A. [Northants, E.]
Butter and Margarine Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 25,* 1523.
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 381.

Charitable Donations and Bequests, Ireland
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Charities
Agricultural Land—Return as to Acreage, Tenancy, etc., Ordered, *Mar. 26,* 1622.
Land Tax, Liability to—Reason for Withdrawal of Concession.
Q. Mr. Everett; *A.* Mr Asquith, *Mar. 26,* 1643.
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Charity Commission
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Cheetham, Mr.
Egypt—Ancient Monuments, Proposals for Preserving, *Mar. 25*, 1498.

Cheltenham Ladies College
Students, Conditions of Admitting—Case of Miss James.
Qs. Mr. Pickersgill, *Mar. 13*, 94.

Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.—*Attorney-General for Ireland* [Liverpool Exchange]
Agrarian Crime—Statistics 1888–1906, *Mar. 13*, 144, 145.
Boycotting and Intimidation, Prevalence of, *Mar. 13*, 145, 146.
Cork Winter Assizes, Jury Challenging at, *Mar. 13*, 61.
Crimelessness of Ireland, alleged, *Mar. 13*, 145.
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1817, Procedure under, *Mar. 13*, 141.
Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 140–146.
Criminal Procedure
Case of Finn *v.* Campbell, *Mar. 14*, 250.
Right of Appeal, etc., *Mar. 13*, 60.
Galway County Court, Gaelic Interpreters in, *Mar. 23*, 1367.
Killenaule—Charges against P. Stokes, *Mar 26*, 1623.
Limerick Assizes—Jurors Ordered to Stand Aside in Clare Shooting Case, *Mar. 22*, 1277.
Newtowncashel Magistrate, Appointment of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 647.
Roscommon Assizes—Direction to Crown Solicitor by Mr. Justice Kenny, *Mar. 18*, 485, 486; *Mar. 19*, 674.
Tonlagee Trial for Unlawful Assembly—Decision of Jury, *Mar. 14*, 202.

Chief Secretary for Ireland
Rt. Hon. A. Birrell

China
Amoy, Assault on British Subjects at—Compensation Claim.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 27*, 1803.
Anhui Mining Final Contract, Progress of Negotiations as to.
Q. Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 18*, 432.
Indo-Chinese Railway Survey Expenditure.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Mar. 27*, 1797.
Kowloon—Canton Railway—Terms of Sleeper Contract.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 27*, 1800.

China—*cont.*
Opium, *see that title.*
Shanghai—Circumstances of Murder of Police-Constable Morrow.
Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 19*, 657.
Tonquin, Railway from Hanoi to Lao-kai, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1497.

Chippenham
National School No. 66, Decision as to Repairs to.
Qs. Lord Balcarres, *Mar. 13*, 116; Mr. Rogers, 124.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*Under-Secretary for the Colonies* [Manchester, N.W.]
Africa, East
Agricultural Possibilities of British Protectorate, *Mar. 14*, 207.
Nairobi Railway Line—Land Owned by the Crown, *Mar. 20, 21*, 829.
Native Unrest, Rumours as to, *Mar. 18*, 459.
Africa, South—Land Settlement Scheme
Allocation of £500,000, *Mar. 18*, 457, 458.
Progress made with and Government Policy as to, *Mar. 18*, 535–539.
Sum Allocated for, from War Contribution Loan, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 537, 538.
Australian Preference Bill, Assent to, *Mar. 18*, 431.
Canadian Tariff
Arrangements with Germany, *Mar. 14*, 219.
Negotiations with Austria, *Mar. 14*, 219.
Ceylon. Establishment of Colombo Port Trust, *Mar. 18*, 455.
Colonial Conference, 1907.
Botha, General—Reply to Invitation, *Mar. 13*, 27.
Canadian Delegates, etc., *Mar. 15*, 339, 340.
Navigation Conference, Reason for Holding, etc., *Mar. 20–21*, 845.
Colonies, Correspondence with—Procedure in Publishing, *Mar. 14*, 218.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 490, 499, 500, 514, 533–537, 538, 539–540, 542, 543–545, 547.
Defence of the Empire, Expenditure on—Obtaining Colonial Views at forthcoming Conference proposed, *Mar. 14*, 217.
Fiji, Forced Labour in, *Mar. 18*, 459.

[*cont.*

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*

Governors Engaging after Retirement in Commercial Enterprises affecting the Colony with which they have been connected, *Mar. 20–21*, 846.

Tabling Copy of Circular proposed, *Mar. 23*, 1372.

Jamaica Earthquake

Grant to Facilitate Rebuilding, Decision as to, *Mar. 18*, 431.

Papers, proposals for Tabling, *Mar. 14*, 220.

School Buildings, Condition of, Proposals as to Re-opening, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1779.

Lagos Town Improvement Scheme—Compensation Paid to Hausas, *Mar. 19*. 656, 657.

Natal, British Indians, Trading Rights of, *Mar. 18*, 456; *Mar. 19*, 656.

New Hebrides

Convention

Expenditure in Connection with, *Mar. 13*, 28; *Mar. 19*, 656.

Possibility of Modifying, *Mar. 18*, 460, 461.

Native Labour

Females, Recruitment of, *Mar. 18*, 459.

Wages, Rate of, *Mar. 18*, 460, 461.

Newfoundland Fisheries—*Modus vivendi*

Circumstances of Granting—Statute Law of the Colony overridden, Alleged, *Mar. 18*, 499; 539–547.

History of the Dispute, *Mar. 18*, 540.

Nigeria

Police Outrages at Ubaikwan, *Mar. 18*, 456.

Railway Extension Proposals as to, *Mar. 20*, 845.

Opium Traffic in Crown Colonies in the East, Possibility of Restricting, etc., *Mar. 18*, 534.

Panama Canal—Conditions of Recruiting, Trinidad Labour, *Mar. 14*, 217; *Mar. 23*, 1372.

Preference, Definite Proposals made as to, *Mar. 22*, 1292.

Transvaal

Chinese Labour

Abolition of System, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 534.

Contracts, Renewal of—Imperial Veto, etc., *Mar. 18*, 459.

Election, Return as to Votes, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 217.

Johannesburg Immorality Prosecution, Particulars of, *Mar. 13*, 27.

Second Chamber, Constitution of, *Mar. 18*, 514.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*

Trinidad Customs Tariff Commission, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 655, 656.

Uganda Railway, Land expropriated by the State, Area and Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 457; *Mar. 20–21*, 844.

West Indies Liquor Licences, Information as to, *Mar. 22*, 1291.

City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill

l. 2R.* *Mar. 20*, 781.

Civil Bill Courts (Dublin) Bill

c. 1R.* *Mar. 13*, 66.

Civil Service

Boy Clerks and Copyists, Appointment and Employment of (1904–1906).

Q. Mr. Parker; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 830.

Second Division Clerks—Salary on Promotion.

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22*, 1292.

Superannuation, *see that title.*

Civil Service Commission

Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Civil Service Estimates

Art and Science Buildings—£25,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Bankruptcy Department of Board of Trade—£500, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries—£60,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Board of Education,—£7,000,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Board of Trade—£90,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

British Museum—£60,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.

Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum—£12,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.

Charity Commission—£15,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Civil Service Commission—£17,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.

Colonial Office—£25,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Colonial Services—£350,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.

County Courts—£2, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.

Customs—£350,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 70.

Cyprus (Grant-in-aid)—£49,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.

Diplomatic and Consular Buildings—£50,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

Diplomatic and Consular Services—£250,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.

Exchequer and Audit Department—£25,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.

[*cont.*

Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*
- Foreign Office—£24,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Friendly Societies, Registry—£3,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Harbours under Board of Trade—£15,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Home Office—£70,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- House of Commons Offices—£20,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- House of Lords Offices—£10,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Houses of Parliament Buildings—£20,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Inland Revenue—£830,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 70.
- Ireland
  - Charitable Donations and Bequests Office—£1,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Chief Secretary's Offices, etc.—£10,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Constabulary—£600,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - County Court Officers—£45,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction—£10,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Development Fund Grant—£100,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 70.
  - Dublin Metropolitan Police—£60,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum—£4,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Education—£760,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Endowed Schools Commissioners—£400, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Hospitals and Charities — £17,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Land Commission—£100,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions—£25,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Local Government Board—£30,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Lord Lieutenant's Household—£2,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - National Gallery—£2,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Prisons—£52,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Public Record Office—£2,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Public Works Office—£16,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Public Works and Buildings—£95,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
  - Queen's Colleges—£2,500, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.

Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*
- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Railways—£35,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
  - Reformatory and Industrial Schools—£55,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Registrar-General's Office — £5,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
  - Supreme Court of Judicature, etc.—£43,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
  - Valuation and Boundary Survey—£7,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Land Registry—£16,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Law Charges—£30,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Local Government Board—£85,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Lunacy Commission—£5,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Mercantile Marine Services—£32,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Mint (Including Coinage)—£5, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances—£1,150, *Mar. 13*, 69.
- Miscellaneous Expenses—£7,943, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 70.
- Miscellaneous Legal Buildings—£30,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Miscellaneous Legal Expenses—£28,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- National Debt Office—£6,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- National Gallery—£10,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
- National Portrait Gallery—£3,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 69.
- Osborne—£5,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Police—£15,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Post Office—£6,250,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 70.
- Prisons—£320,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Privy Council Office—£5,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Public Buildings—£200,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Public Record Office—£10,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Public Works Loan Commission—£500, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Rates on Government Property—£290,00 , *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Reformatory and Industrial Schools—£130,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Registrar-General's Office—£15,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 68.
- Revenue Buildings—£210,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.
- Royal Palaces—£20,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 67.

[*cont.*

Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*

Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens —£50,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 67.

Scientific Investigation — £24,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 67.

Scotland

Crofters' Commission—£2,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Education—£850,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Fishery Board—£5,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Law Charges and Courts of Law—£30,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Local Government Board—£5,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Lunacy Commission—£2,500, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

National Gallery—£3,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Peterhead Harbour—£10,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 67.

Prisons—£35,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Register House, Edinburgh—£15,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Registrar-General's Office — £1,500, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Secretary's Office — £25,000 — *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Secret Service—£40,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Stationery and Printing—£330,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances —£300,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Supreme Court of Judicature—£140,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Surveys—£90,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 67.

Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable—£25,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Temporary Commissions—£28,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 70.

Treasury, etc.—£40,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 67.

Universities and Colleges, and Intermediate Education, Wales—£60,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 69.

Wallace Collection—£3,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13* 69.

Woods, Forests, etc., Office of—£8,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Works and Public Buildings, Office of—£34,000, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 68.

Clanricarde Estate

Meeting of Planters, Speech at.
Qs. Mr. J. Roche, Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 52.

Clare

Outrages in which Firearms were used—Cases of Kelly, M'Inerney, etc.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar.13* , 51.

Claremont

Estate of Major Armstrong, Negotiations for Sale of.
Q. Mr. Reddy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 866, 867.

Cleland, Mr. J. W. [Glasgow, Bridgeton]

Customs Outdoor Inspectors, System of Appointing, *Mar. 22,* 1292.

Newspapers, Misrepresentations by—Legislation to Facilitate Punishment of Persons responsible, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1789.

Clements Estate

Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. A. Kerrigan.
Q. Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19,* 677.

Clerkenwell

County Court—Case of Mr. C. G. Hunt.
Q. Mr. Carlile; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14,* 251.

Clifton-on-Bowmont

Agricultural Experiments of Mr. R. H. Elliot, *see under* Agriculture Board.

Clitheroe

Garnett, Mr.—Reason for Giving Tenants Notice.
Q. Mr. Clough; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 19,* 671.

Cloghroe

Dynamite Outrage—Result of Investigation.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 866.

Clough, Mr. W. [Yorks, W.R., Skipton]

Agricultural Holdings Act—Notice to Tenants given by Mr. Garnett of Clitheroe, *Mar. 19,* 671.

Education Grants, Allocation of, *Mar. 19,* 668.

Liquor Traffic—Proposals for Dealing with Clubs, *Mar. 19,* 660.

Cloveneden

Procession of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Route taken by.
Qs. Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Moore; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 54.

Clyde

Fishing Industry—Inquiry proposed.
Q. Mr. Ainsworth; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 22,* 1271.

Clynes, Mr. J. R. [Manchester, N.E.]
Germany—Prevention of Exportation of British Workmen to Replace Hamburg Strikers, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1276.
Hull Juvenile Offenders, Method of Dealing with, *Mar. 22*, 1277.
Manchester Unemployed
  Grant for Farm Colony, Decision as to, *Mar. 26*, 1651; *Mar. 27*, 1863.
  Number of Proposals for Assisting, *Mar. 13*, 37.
Unemployed Workmen Act, Amendment of, Date of Introducing Legislation, *Mar. 27*, 1861–1864.
Vagrancy, Proposals for Dealing with—Statement of Chairman of Clerkenwell Sessions, etc., *Mar. 13*, 30

Coal
Exports, Prices and Quantities (1906)—Return Presented, *Mar. 22*, 1264; *Mar. 23*, 1366.

Coates, Major E. F. [Lewisham]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1024, 1086.
Duke of York's School Site, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 434.
Irish Chief Secretary—Sum Voted for Travelling Expenses (1907–8), *Mar. 18*, 442.

Cobbold, Mr. F. T. [Ipswich]
Army, Reductions Effected in, *Mar. 14*, 324, 325.
Navy, *Personnel*, Reductions in, *Mar. 14*, 265, 266.

Cochrane, Mr. T. H. [Ayrshire, N.]
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R. *Mar. 15*, 391.
Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to. *Mar. 15*, 403.
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 731, 732, 733–735, 736–737.

Coinage and Currency
Gold Reserve—Inquiry Proposed.
  Q. Mr. G. H. Faber; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 22*, 1278.

Collings, Rt. Hon. J. [Birmingham, Bordesley]
Jamaica Earthquake
  American Armed Force, Landing of, *Mar. 14*, 227.
  Papers, Proposals for Tabling, *Mar. 14*, 219.
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 699.
War Office Forage Contracts, Information as to, *Mar. 26*, 1633, 1634.

Collins, Sir W. J. [St. Pancras, W.]
Channel Islands Shipping Laws, Progress of Negotiations for Improving, *Mar. 19*, 660.

Collins, Sir W. J.—*cont.*
India—Appointment of Dr. Haffkine, etc., *Mar. 19*, 644.
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20*, 961.

Collooney, Ballina and Belmullet Railways and Piers Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 22*, 1262.

Colonial Audit Branch
See under Exchequer and Audit Department.

Colonial Conference, 1907
Botha, General, Reply of, to Invitation.
  Q. Mr. Lehmann; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 13*, 27.
British Indians in the Colonies, Disabilities of—Bringing Question before the Conference, proposed.
  Os. Lord Ampthill, *Mar. 19*, 621–627, 634; Earl of Elgin, 627–630; Marquess of Lansdowne, 630–633; Lord Reay, 633.
Canada, Cablegrams to, and Names of Delegates from.
  Qs. Mr. P. Pease; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 15*, 339, 340.
Navigation Conference, Reason for Holding and Colonies invited to Participate in.
  Qs. Mr. E. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 18*, 474, 475.
  Q. Mr. E. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 20–21*, 845.
Preference, Amendment of Shipping Laws to Effect, proposed.
  Q. Sir G. Parker; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1492.
Preferential Tariffs, Procedure in Discussing, etc.
  Q. Mr. Hills; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 22*, 1269, 1270.

Colonial Office
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. W. L. S. Churchill.
Affairs of Western Pacific, Tabling Despatch as to, proposed.
  Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1492, 1493.
Despatch of 20th April, 1906—Matters mentioned regarding Western Pacific.
  Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1638.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Colonial Services
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Colonies and Protectorates

[*For* particular Colonies, etc., *see their names.*]

Accession to Treaty Engagements between United Kingdom and Foreign Powers, Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1622.

Compulsory Native Labour in—Return as to, Ordered, *Mar. 27*, 1767.

Correspondence with, Procedure in Publishing.
Q. Mr. Bridgeman; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 217, 218.

Governors engaging after Retirement in Commercial Enterprises affecting Colonies with which they have been connected.
Qs. Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Menzies; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 20*, 845, 846.

Circular Despatch, Relative to, Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1768.

Tabling Copy of Circular proposed.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 23*, 1372.

Preference, Definite Proposals made as to.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 22*, 1291, 1292.

Commissions

Temporary, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 70.

Committees

Business Committee consisting of Speaker and Six other Members, to be appointed to consider all Bills, proposed.
Os. Mr. L. Hardy, *Mar. 25*, 1578–1580; Sir H. Fowler, 1581; Mr. S. Wortley, 1582; Mr. McCrae, 1582; Mr. A. Douglas, 1582, 1583; Mr. Forster, 1584–1586.

Grand Committees, Provision of Suitable Rooms for.
Q. Mr. L. Hardy; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1513.

Manning of—Statistics as to.
Os. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20*, 892–894; Mr. J. Redmond, 919; Sir B. Gurdon, 921; Mr. W. Long, *Mar. 25*, 1539–1542.

Privileges—Nomination of Members, *Mar. 13*, 66.

Standing Committes

Bills, referring to, *see under* Bills.

Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure, and Reference of all Bills to unless otherwise decided, proposed.
Os. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20*, 889–896; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 896–911; Mr. Ellis, 911–915; Mr. J. Redmond, 915–921; Sir B. Gurdon, 921; Mr. L. Hardy, 922–927; Mr. Jowett, 928–930; Mr. Money, 930–933; Lord R. Cecil, 933–936; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 25*, 1531, 1575–1578; Mr. Long, 1535–1547; Sir H. Fowler, 1547–1552; Mr. S. Roberts, 1552–1554; Mr. M. Ferguson, 1554; Mr. S. Wortley, 1558–1560; Mr. Pirie, 1560–1562; Mr. W. Redmond, 1565–1568; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1568–1575.

Scottish Committee, Proposals as to establishing.
Os. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20*, 892, 895; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 897, 903, 904, 907–910; Mr. J. Redmond, 915; Mr. Crombie, 927; Lord R. Cecil, *Mar. 25*, 1532; Mr. E. Wason, 1534; Mr. W. Long, 1538; Sir H. Fowler, 1550; Mr. M. Ferguson, 1555–1557; Mr. S. Wortley, 1560; Mr. Pirie, 1561, 1562; Sir H. Craik, 1562–1565; Mr. W. Redmond, 1566–1568; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1568, 1569.

Companies

Limited, Registration of, since 1895.
Q. Mr. Stewart-Smith; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13*, 21.

Companies Bill

l. 2R., *Mar. 14*, 164.

Debate on Second Reading [Lords], *Mar. 14*, 164.

Committee Stage, Date of taking, 170, 175, 176.

Companies not issuing a Prospectus to be required to deposit a Statement embodying Information with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, 165, 166.

Companies registered outside the United Kingdom to be required to file with the Registrar a Certified Copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association, 168.

Consolidation of all Existing Acts, Proposals as to, 169, 174, 175.

Directors having acted honestly and in good faith, to be absolved from Liabilities, 172.

[*cont.*

Companies Bill—*cont.*

Debate on Second Reading—cont.

Foreign Companies to be required to file with the Registrar a Copy of their Charter, etc., 172, 174.

Issue of New Capital at a Discount and payment of Interest during Construction, Provisions as to, 166.

Limited Liability System, Importance of, 164.

Meetings, Provisions as to calling of, 168.

Mortgages and other Charges affecting a Company, further Information to be supplied to Registrar, 167, 171.

Number of Companies carrying on Business and Capital embarked, 165.

Private Companies, Definition of, 166.

Re-Issue of Debentures already cancelled, Provisions as too, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173.

Report of Departmental Committee of 1905, Terms of, 164, 170.

Statement of Affairs in Form of a Balance Sheet to be filed annually with the Registrar, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175.

Comptroller and Auditor-General

Age for Retirement of.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13,* 18.

Congo Free State

Accounts, Opposition to communicating to Belgian Committee—Composition of Colonial Council.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26,* 1641.

Belgian Commission—Date of Presenting Report.
Q. Mr. Herbert; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 15,* 339.

Consolidated Fund

Grants from, towards making good Supply—£71,715, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 126; £38,114,700, *Rep.* Mar. 13,* 126; *Mar. 14,* 336.

Consolidated Fund Appropriation Act, 1905

Section 5, Powers of Treasury under as to Appropriation of Surpluses.
Os. Mr. Bowles, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 25,* 1524.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25,* 1427.
Qs. Mr. Bowles, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. A. Chamberlain, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25,* 1499–1503.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill

c. 1R.* *Mar. 14,* 336.
2R., *Mar. 18,* 490.
Com., Mar. 19, 776.
Rep. Mar. 19,* 779.
3R.* *Mar. 20,* 964.

l. 1R.* *Mar. 21,* 1206.
2R. and 3R.* *Mar. 21,* 1260.
Royal Assent, *Mar. 22,* 1261.

Discussion of, Arrangements for.
Os. Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 20,* 964; Mr. G. Whiteley, 965, 966; Lord Balcarres, 966; Sir F. Banbury, 967; Lord R. Cecil, 967; Sir E. Grey, 968; Mr. W. Rutherford, 968; Mr. Cave, 969; Mr. Courthope, 970; Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 21,* 1171, 1172, 1175–1178; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1173–1175; Sir F. Banbury, 1177; Major Seely, 1178.

Royal Assent, Circumstances of Granting.
Os. Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 22,* 1305; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1306, 1307.

Consols

Decline in Value, Reason for and Proposals for dealing with.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. C. Money, Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 18,* 464–466.

Constabulary, Royal Irish

(*See also names of places.*)

Recruiting Area, Restriction of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 15,* 344.

Strength, Cost and Proposals as to Reduction.
Q. Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 15,* 338, 339.

Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Consular Service

See Diplomatic and Consular Service.

Conventual Institutions

Laundries, *see that title.*

Cooper, Dr. G. [Southwark, Bermondsey]

All Night Sitting, Remuneration of Attendants for Duty during, *Mar. 25,* 1513.

London City Corporation Grant to Committees, Expenditure of, *Mar. 22,* 1272.

Police—Information as to Libraries of M Division, *Mar. 26,* 1650, 1651.

Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20,* 962.

War Office Harness Contract placed with Messrs. Jenkinson—Wages earned, etc., *Mar. 22,* 1303.

Cooscroum

Landing Place, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1662.

Corbally

Untenanted Land belonging to Miss Griffith, Purchase of.
Q. Mr. K. O'Brien; A. Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 643.

Corbett, Mr. C. H. [Sussex, East Grinstead]

Army—Pay and Promotion of Engineer Civil Staff, *Mar. 20–21*, 843.

Corbett, Mr. T. L. [Down, N.]

Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of effecting, *Mar. 14*, 270.

Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1026, 1027, 1047, 1071, 1156, 1165, 1166.

Blocking Motions and Bills put on the Order Paper to prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, *Mar. 27*, 1889.

Carrick-on-Suir Convents, etc., Valuation of, *Mar. 20–21*, 873.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Allocation of Profit from, *Mar. 25*, 1492.

Consols, Decline in Value of, *Mar. 18*, 466.

Donaghadee Harbour Works—Wages of Labourers, *Mar. 25*, 1464.

Education

Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to remedying and increasing Grants, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1445–1447.

Schools, Amount available for building and improving, *Mar. 20–21*, 865.

Teachers' Salaries, Comparison of Scale with that in England and Scotland, *Mar. 23*, 1446.

Hibernian Academy Commission Report Recommendations, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 85.

Inchigula, Letter Robbery at, Efforts made to trace Offenders, *Mar. 27*, 1824.

Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23*, 1445.

Laundries in Religious Institutions, Inspection of—Legislative Proposals, *Mar. 20–21*, 853.

Law Courts—Promotion System in Irish High Court, *Mar. 22*, 1285.

New Caledonia—Continuance as Penal Settlement, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1641.

New Hebrides Conaention, Possibility of Modifying, *Mar. 18*, 461.

Post Office Savings Bank Funds—Investment in Irish Land Stock, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1645.

Stewartstown Disturbance, Cause of, *Mar. 27*, 1825, 1826.

United Irish League—Branch joined by Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, *Mar. 26*, 1669.

Women's Enfranchisement Bill, Facilities for, *Mar. 14*, 252.

Cork

Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of Untenanted Land available in certain Districts.
Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 871.

Telephone Extension in County, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. A. Roche; A. Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 20–21*, 834.
Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 20–21*, 874.

Winter Assizes, Jury Challenging at.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; A. Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 13*, 61.

Cornwall, Duchy of

Lord Warden—*Earl of Ducie.*

Cornwall, Sir E. A. [Bethnal Green, N.E.]

Indian Army—Compassionate Allowance to Daughter of Major Mill, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1474.

London County Council Accounts, Audit of, *Mar. 18*, 470.

Corofin

Constabulary District Inspector, Circumstances of Loss of Sum of Money from Office of.
Q. Mr. T. F. Smythe; A. Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 870.

Corrupt Practices Act

Amendment, Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Fenwick; A. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 238.

Cotton

Prices in New York and Liverpool, Difference between—Effect on Lancashire Trade, etc.
Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 20–21*, 834, 835.

Cotton, Sir H. J. S. [Nottingham, E.]

Egypt—General Assembly, Tabling Resolutions of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 221.

India

Eastern Bengal and Assam Era, Publication of Inflammatory Matter in, etc., *Mar. 22*, 1280.

Lahore—Sentence on Proprietor and Editor of *Panjabee*, *Mar. 13*, 26.

National Congress—Tabling Resolution, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 655.

Liquor Traffic—Pecuniary Liabilities of Licensing Justices, *Mar. 26*, 1647.

County Councils

Meetings, Record of Attendance of Members at.
Q. Mr. W. T. Wilson; A. Mr. Burns, *Mar. 15*, 341.

County Courts

Ireland—Ages of Land Valuers.
Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; A. Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 56.

County Courts Bill
- *l.* 2R., *Mar. 14*, 176.

Court of Appeal
- *See under* Law Courts.

Court of Session (Scotland) Act, 1868
- Act of Sederunt to Regulate Procedure—Copy Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1768.

Courthope, Mr. G. L. [Sussex, Rye]
- Ancient Monuments, Maintenance and Protection of—Reason for Increase in Estimates, *Mar. 14*, 247.
- Army (Annual) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 589; *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1011, 1024, 1025, 1079, 1129, 1149.
- Battle Post Office Staff, Information as to, *Mar. 13*, 39.
- Blacklion—Boycotting of Mr. T. E. Taylor, *Mar. 19*, 675.
- Butter and Margarine Bill, Date of taking, *Mar. 14*, 252.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 970.
  - Discussion of, Opportunity for, *Mar. 20*, 970.
- Education—Welsh Department—Position of Secretary, *Mar. 13*, 40.
- Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 397, 398.
- Metropolitan Borough Council Accounts—Proposals for Issue of Order, *Mar. 19*, 645.
- Panama Canal—Conditions of Recruiting Trinidad Labour, *Mar. 14*, 217.
- Post Office Rules for Head Postmasters, etc., Access of Officials to, *Mar. 13*, 39.

Courtney, Lord
- Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14*, 174.

Courtown Harbour
- Report of Agriculture Department on. *Q.* Sir T. Esmond; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1771.

Cox, Mr. H. [Preston]
- Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of Effecting, *Mar. 14*, 274.
- Jamaica
  - Amount Subscribed by, Towards Expenses of War with France, *Mar. 25*, 1491.
  - Grant in 1781, Purpose of, *Mar. 25*, 1490.
- Mail Service Between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount Paid under and Objections to Renewal of, *Mar. 20*, 859; *Mar. 23*, 1368, 1369; *Mar. 26*, 1674; *Mar. 27*, 1831–1836, 1849, 1850.
- Parliamentary Franchise, Age for, in Foreign Countries, *Mar. 25*, 1466.

Craig, Captain J. [Down, E.]
- Administration of Ireland, Allegations as to Laxity in Bringing Wrongdoers to Justice, *Mar. 14*, 201.
- Army
  - Artillery Strength in 1895 and 1905, *Mar. 13*, 24.
  - Soldiers' Song Book, Proposals for, *Mar. 14*, 203.
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar 21*, 1011, 1024, 1026, 1074, 1079, 1084, 1085, 1105, 1155.
- Clare—Outrages in which Firearms were used, *Mar. 13*, 51.
- Cloghroe Dynamite Outrage, Inquiry into, *Mar. 20–21*, 866.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 992–995.
- Education, Primary, Condition of—Proposals for Improving and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 20*, 992–995.
- Empire Day Demonstrations by School Children, Encouragement of, *Mar. 18*, 476.
- Evictions
  - Number of Reinstatement Claims, etc., *Mar. 13*, 45, 46; *Mar. 25*, 1476.
  - Sons of Deceased Evicted Tenants, Procedure as to Reinstatement of, *Mar. 13*, 46.
- Galway Prison—Case of Mr. Hawes, *Mar. 13*, 17; *Mar. 20–21*, 866.
- Land Purchase Transactions in December, 1906, and January and February 1907, *Mar. 13*, 14, 46.
- Leitrim—Boycotting of the Bradys, *Mar. 13*, 48, 49.
- Old-Age Pension Scheme, proposals for, *Mar. 18*, 463.
- Poor Law Officials, Charges against Defrayment of Legal Costs, *Mar. 26*, 1629.
- Railways—Payment of Interest out of Capital during Construction of New Lines—Amendment of Standing Order 167, *Mar. 15*, 316–319
- Roscommon, Intimidation in, *Mar. 14*, 202.
- Tonlagee Trial for Unlawful Assembly—Decision of Jury, *Mar. 14*, 202.
- William III., Statue of, Site for Erection of, *Mar. 14*, 251.

Craig, Mr. C. C. [Antrim, S.]
- Agrarian Crime—Statistics 1886–1906, *Mar. 13*, 146–150.
- Antrim Labourers' Cottages Schemes—Effect on Rates, *Mar. 13*, 52.
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1046, 1047, 1103.
- Athenry Poaching Case—Remarks of Mr. French, *Mar. 18*, 427.
- Crimelessness of Ireland, alleged, *Mar. 13*, 147–150.

[*cont.*

Craig, Mr. C. C.—*cont.*

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 146–152.

Education—Non-Vested Schools, Grant Available for Improving, *Mar. 25*, 1480.

Great Northern Railway Company Motor Trains, Second Class Accommodation in, *Mar. 13*, 20.

Knockrow Outrage and Alleged Intimidation at Farm of P. Raftery, *Mar. 26*, 1668, 1669.

Limerick Assizes Jurors Challenged in Clare Shooting Case, *Mar. 22*, 1277.

Loughrea Gaelic Athletic Association—Speech made by Mr. P. Larkin, *Mar. 13*, 53.

Taylorstown Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 13*, 64.

Craig, Mr. H. J. [Tynemouth]

Naval Battleships — Arrangements for Flooding Magazine when in Dock, *Mar. 22*, 1270.

Trade, Board of—Conditions of Service of Marine Department Staff, *Mar. 22*, 1268.

Craik, Sir H. [Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities]

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3r., *Mar. 20*, 984, 985.

Education Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20*, 984, 985.

Education (Scotland) Bill, *Intro.*, *Mar. 20*, 882–883.

Scottish Standing Committee, proposals as to Establishing, *Mar. 25*, 1562–1565.

Universities, Scotland, Grants to, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 13*, 123, 124.

Crete

Kavo Krio, Erection of Light on—Cause of Wreck of "Imperatrix," etc.
Q. Mr. Thornton; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1495, 1496.

Mussulman Population, Protection of, against Christian Persecution.
Q. Sir S. King; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 191, 192.

Crewe, Earl of—*Lord President of the Council*

Agriculture Holdings Act, 1906—Agreements, Invalidation of—Action of Certain Landlords in Issuing Notices to Tenants, etc., *Mar. 14*, 184, 185.

Channel Tunnel, Construction of—Policy of the Government as to, *Mar. 21*, 1203.

Companies Bill, 2r., *Mar. 14*, 176.

Crewe, Earl of—*cont.*

Home Rule—Policy of Establishing in Ireland a Freely Elected Parliament and Executive responsible to it, *Mar. 20*, 795–800.

Licensing Bill—Date of Introduction of, Possibility of Introducing in House of Lords, *Mar. 20*, 817, 818.

Peers sitting and voting without having taken the Oath, Procedure in Cases of, *Mar. 19*, 620.

Procedure in Debate—Appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry into Standing Orders relating to, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 616–619.

Putting the Question, Methods adopted in, *Mar. 19*, 619.

Small Land Holders (Scotland) Bill—Introduction of, in House of Lords, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 6, 7.

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887

Procedure under.
Os. Mr. Gordon, *Mar. 13*, 135; Mr. Cherry, 141.

Repeal of, proposed.
Os. Mr. Hogan, *Mar. 13*, 126–128; Mr. Nolan, 128–133; Mr. Gordon, 133–141; Mr. Cherry, 140–146; Mr. C. Craig, 146–152; Mr. W. Redmond, 152; Mr. Birrell, 152–155; Mr. Long, 155–158.
Qs. Mr. Lambton, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 19*, 679, 680.

Criminal Procedure

Conditional Licences Granted—*See under title* Penal Servitude Acts.

Finn *v.* Campbell, Case of—Effect of General Dealers Act, 1903, on 13th Section of Prevention of Crimes Act, 1871.
Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 14*, 249, 250.

Ireland—Right of Appeal from Sentences given by Magistrates, Assimilating with English Practice proposed.
Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 13*, 60.

Criminal Statistics

Crimes in England (1902–1907).
Qs. Mr. Mooney; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1503.

Habitual Criminals at Large in England (1902–1907).
Q. Mr. Mooney; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1507.

Crofters (Scotland) Bill

c. 1r.* *Mar. 14*, 253.

Crofton Estate
Grasslands, Purchase and Disposal of.
Q. Mr. James O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1665.
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 49, 50.

Crombie, Mr. J. W. [Kincardineshire]
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 18*, 566.
Glasgow Provincial Council for Training of Teachers, Alleged Refusal of Grants to Teachers taking Vacation Courses abroad, *Mar. 27*, 1822.
Moray Firth, Trawling in—Prosecution of Norwegian Vessels—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 18*, 566.
Scottish Standing Committee, Proposals as to establishing, *Mar. 20*, 927.
Scottish Supply, Date of taking, *Mar. 26*, 1672.
Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill—Date of taking Second Reading, *Mar. 26*, 1672.
Trawling, Destruction of Fish by Trawlers, *Mar. 18*, 566.

Crooks, Mr. W. [Woolwich]
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 380.
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20*, 944–948.
Woolwich Arsenal—Naval Work allocated to, *Mar. 27*, 1791.

Cross, Mr. A. [Glasgow, Camlachie]
Income Tax Collection—Assimilating English and Scotch Systems, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 229; *Mar. 18*, 463, 464.
Standing Committees, Referring Bills to—Withdrawal from General Discussion by the House, Policy of, *Mar. 26*, 1689.

Cross, Viscount
County Courts Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14*, 178.

Crossdrum
Sale Proposals for Mr. Rotheram's Untenanted Land.
Q. Mr. P. White; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 643.

Crown Agents for the Colonies
Return as to Total Amount on which Commission was charged or received (1904–1906), Ordered, *Mar. 13*, 10.

Crown Lands
Open Spaces, Power to make Free Gifts for.
Q. Mr. Vivian, Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22*, 1274.

Cuba
Fowler and Company, Messrs.—Claim against Spanish Government.
Q. Mr. Seaverns; *A.* Sir E. Grey. *Mar. 26*, 1626.

Cullinan, Mr. J. [Tipperary, S.]
Ballynulty—Negotiations as to Evicted Holding of R. Merrick, *Mar. 13*, 59.

Curraghmore
Seed Potatoes, Seed Oats and Lime, Proposals for supplying.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1518.

Customs and Excise
Classification and Salaries of Clerks.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 14*, 209.
Outdoor Inspectors, System of appointing.
Q. Mr. Cleland; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22*, 1292.
Statistical Department Assistant Clerks (New Class), Reply to Memorials from.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 14*, 209.
Q. Sir W. Bull; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 70.

Cutlery
German Goods marked "Sheffield" Prevention of Importation of.
Q. Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 23*, 1371.

Cyprus
Grant-in-aid, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Dalrymple, Lord [Wigtown]
Duke of York's Steps—Necessity for relaying Asphalte on Footway leading to Storey's Gate, *Mar. 19*, 668.
Kensington Gardens—Trees planted, lopped, and cut down during Present Year, *Mar. 19*, 667.
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 399.

Dangerous Performances Acts
Women, Extension to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14*, 232.

Davies, Mr. E. W. [Carnarvon, Eifion]
Post Office Charges on Newspapers, *Mar. 26*, 1624.

Davies, Mr. T. [Fulham]
Unemployed Grant, Allocation of, *Mar. 27*, 1810.

Davies, Mr. W. H. [Bristol, S.]
Bristol Trams—By laws as to Miners, *Mar. 14*, 239.

Debt

Commitments to Prison by Order of County Courts, Increase in Number of Restriction of Present Powers, proposed.
Os. Mr. Pickersgill, *Mar. 20,* 936–938; Mr. Maclean, 939; Sir W. Bill, 940–943; Sir W. Robson, 943, 944.

Defence of the Empire

Committee of Defence

Constitution of, Names of Members, etc.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 27,* 1828.

Esher, Lord, Powers to call for Papers etc.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Sir H Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 27,* 1829.

Expenditure on—Obtaining Views of Colonies at forthcoming Conference, proposed.
Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 14,* 217.

Preparedness of the Country.
Os. Lord Tweedmouth, *Mar. 21,* 1251.

Delany, Mr. W. [Queen's County, Ossory]

Works Board

Luncheon Interval of Staff, *Mar. 15,* 340.

New Years' Day, Arrangements as to, *Mar. 19,* 646.

Second Division Clerks—Promotion and and Increments, *Mar. 20–21,* 831.

Staff—Procedure in indicating Late Arrival, *Mar. 13,* 19.

Delmege Estate

Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. M. Windle.
Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 190, 191.

Denbigh, Earl of

Home Rule—Policy of establishing in Ireland a freely elected Parliament and Executive responsible to it, *Mar. 20,* 784–795.

Dental Companies (Restrictions of Practice) Bill

l. 1R.* *Mar. 13,* 4.

Destructive Insects and Pests Bill

l. 1R.* *Mar. 21,* 1206.

Development Fund Grant, Ireland

Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 70.

Devonport Corporation Bill

l. Rep. *Mar. 19,* 597.

Devonshire

Constabulary Superintendents—Reason for appointment of Retired Military Officers.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 27,* 1805.

Dewar, Mr. J. A. [Inverness]

Ness, Loch—Salmon Fishery Rights of the Public, *Mar. 26,* 1661.

Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19,* 716–719.

Dicken Estate

Sale Proposals for—Case of P. O'Brien, etc.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1462, 1463.

Dickinson, Mr. W. H. [St. Pancras, N.]

Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20,* 948–951.

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C. W. [Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean]

Army—Provost-Marshal, Powers of and Qualifications, for Office of Assistant, *Mar. 25,* 1488–1489.

Army (Annual) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 584, 595; *Con., Mar. 25,* 1613–1615.

Blocking Motion of Member for Barnstaple, Effect of, *Mar. 25,* 1524.

Blocking Motions and Bills put on the Order Paper to prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, *Mar. 27,* 1888.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 528, 545.

India

Abazai Garrison, Composition of, *Mar. 27,* 1797.

Strategic Railways, Expenditure on, *Mar. 27,* 1796.

Post Office Savings Bank, Insurance through in Respect of Workmen's Compensation Date of Report of Farrer Committee, *Mar. 27,* 1788.

Dillon, Mr. J. [Mayo, E.]

Agricultural Organisation Society, Grant to, *Mar. 14,* 200.

Cavan, Indictable Offences in—Comparison with Sussex, *Mar. 19,* 675.

Clanricarde Estate Planters, Speech at Meeting of, *Mar. 13,* 52.

Co-operative Banks in Ireland—Return as to Number, etc., of, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1773.

Education

Building Plans and Grants, Proposals as to, *Mar. 23,* 1438.

Amount actually issued, *Mar. 27,* 1775.

[*cont.*

Dillon, Mr. J.—*cont.*
- Education—*cont.*
  - Building Plans and Grants—*cont.*
    - Applications for, Procedure as to, *Mar. 27*, 1775.
  - Bursaries, Possibility of Establishing System of, *Mar. 23*, 1414.
  - Co-ordination of—Publication of Report of Committee of Inquiry into, proposed, *Mar. 23*, 1413, 1443.
  - Development Fund, Amount allocated from, *Mar. 23*, 1443, 1444.
  - Primary Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1438–1445.
  - Schools—Expenditure of Sum Voted for Rebuilding, *Mar. 20–21*,865.
  - Teachers
    - Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1439–1442.
- Egypt—Appointment of Fathy Bey Zaglool, *Mar. 14*, 220.
- Hibernian Academy, Control over, by the Board of Agriculture, Objections to, *Mar. 13*, 83–85.
- Potato Crop, Failure of—Relief Measures, Distribution of Potato Seed, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1772, 1773.
- Swinford Landlords, Allegations as to Rent Recovery by, *Mar. 13*, 57, 58.

Diplomatic and Consular Buildings
- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Diplomatic and Consular Service
- Commercial Attachés
  - New Arrangements as to.
    - *Q.* Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 222.
  - Value of System.
    - *Qs.* Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 851.
- Commercial Intelligence, Reason for Reduction in Estimate for.
  - *Qs.* Mr. S. Roberts; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 223.
- Linguistic Qualifications of Officers, New Regulations as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18*, 461.
- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Disinfectants
- Standardisation, Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 233.

Divisions
- *See under* Parliamentary Procedure.

Doagh
- School, Decision as to Grant for.
  - *Q.* Colonel McCalmont; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 211.

Dockyards, Naval
- *See under* Navy.

Dogs (Injuries to Persons) Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 879.

Dolan, Mr. [Leitrim, N.]
- Crofton Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 13*, 49.
- Evans Estate, Rent Collection on, *Mar. 18*, 441.
- India—Sentence on Proprietor and Editor of *Panjabee* at Lahore, *Mar. 13*, 26, 27.

Donaghadee
- Harbour Works—Wages of Labourers.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1464.

Doncaster
- Land Tax Commissioners—Reason for Failure of Clerk to Notify Mr. M. Dowson of Appointment.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Nicholson; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 27*, 1817.

Donegal
- Fisheries—Protest against Projected Bylaw of Agriculture Department.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. MacVeigh; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1519; *Mar. 27*, 1827.
- Harbour and Fishing Accommodation, Proposals for Improving.
  - *Qs.* Mr. O'Doherty; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 59.
- Postal Facilities in certain Places, Improvement of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. O'Doherty; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13*, 65.

Donelan, Captain A. J. C. [Cork, E.]
- Ponsonby Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mr. E. Flavin, *Mar. 18*, 442.
- Youghal Bay Seals, Damage caused by, and Rewards offered for Destroying, *Mar. 13*, 57.

Donoughmore, Earl of
- Army
  - Officers, Effect of Abolition of the Militia on Supply of, *Mar. 21*, 1256–1258.
  - Territorial, Memorandum explanatory of, Issue of, proposed, *Mar. 21*, 1257.
- Militia Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21*, 1255.

Doohoma
- School—Circumstances of Eviction of Mr. Cryan by Father Dolphin, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 15*, 343, 344; *Mar. 20–21*, 872, 873.

Douglas Estate
- Case of Mrs. K. Scanlan, Decision in.
  - *Q.* Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 56, 57.
- Purchase Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1630, 1631.

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. A. [Kent, St. Augustine's]
- Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 374, 375.
- Standing Committees
  - Business Committee consisting of Speaker and six other Members, to be appointed to consider all Bills, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1582, 1583.
  - Withdrawal of Bills from Discussion by the House, Objections to, *Mar. 26*, 1688.

Dover Harbour
- Expenditure on—Regulations to prevent Mishaps to Vessels, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 25*, 1483.
- Poll Tax on Passengers, Proposal for Raising.
  - *Q.* Mr. W. R. Rea; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25*, 1511, 1512.

Downing's Bay
- Shelter Pier, Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Marquess of Hamilton; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 199, 200.

Dowra
- Population, Police Force and Condition of District.
  - *Q.* Mr. S. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 428.

Drugs, Patent
- International Agreement as to Unification of Pharmacopæial Formulæ, Presented, *Mar. 18*, 416; *Mar. 19*, 599.

Drum
- Untenanted Land Belonging to Sir H. Burke, Sale of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1477.

Dublin
- Metropolitan Police
  - Recruiting Area, Restriction of, proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 15*, 344.
  - Religion of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 448.
  - Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Dublin—*cont.*
- Post Office—Reply to Memorial from Postmen.
  - *Q.* Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Buxton. *Mar, 13*, 14.
- Registry of Deeds Office, Increase of Work in—Reply to Memorial from Staff.
  - *Q.* Mr. Meehan; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 830, 831.
- Science College
  - Librarian, Proposals for Appointment of.
    - *Qs.* Mr. H. Law, Mr. H. Burke; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 50, 51.
  - Material used in Construction of.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Halpin; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 26*, 1671.
- Technical Training College, Materials used in Erecting.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. MacVeigh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1521.
- Valuation Office and Office of Registrar of Titles—Memorials from Clerks.
  - *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 27*, 1779.

Duffy, Mr. W. J. [Galway, S.]
- Athenry
  - Agricultural College, Information as to, *Mar. 18*, 429.
  - Reason for, and Circumstances of, Arrest of N. Moran, *Mar. 18*, 428.
- Bunnahow Grass Lands, Disposal of, *Mar. 15*, 342.
- Galway County Court, Gaelic Interpreters in, *Mar. 23*, 1367.
- Gort Board of Guardians, Circumstances of Surcharge on, *Mar. 20–21*, 867.

Duke of York's School
- Site, Decision as to Disposal of.
  - *Q.* Major Coates; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 18*, 434.

Duke of York's Steps
- Asphalte on Footway leading to Storey's Gate, Necessity for Relaying.
  - *Q.* Viscount Dalrymple; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 19*, 668.

Duncan, Mr C. [Barrow-in-Furness]
- Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 388.
- Navy
  - Artificers, Changes in Duties and Training of, *Mar. 14*, 274–276.
  - Repairing Stations—Facilities afforded on East and West Coasts, *Mar. 13*, 23.

Duncan, Mr. R. [Lanark, Govan]
- Fishery Rights, Proposals for Inquiry into, *Mar. 22*, 1276.

Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Dungarvan
Telephone Extension to, proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Shee; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 25,* 1467.

Dunkeld
Right-of-Way Case, Cost of—Proposals for, Amendment of Law.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 14,* 248, 249.

Dunraven Estate
Sale Proposals for—Cases of Spearing and Drew, etc.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1667, 1668.

Dunshaughlin
Labourer's Cottages Scheme—Applications rejected.
Qs. Mr. Sheehy, Mr. J. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 2,* 1520, 1521.

Earl's Park
Conway, Mr. T., Outrage at House of.
Q. Mr. Arkwright; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 201, 202.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners
Agency Charges paid during last Twenty Years.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. S. Wortley, *Mar. 22,* 1299, 1300.

Ecclesiastical Disorders
Illegal Practices at Broadstairs and Tunbridge Wells—Enforcement of Law by Attorney-General, proposed.
Q. Sir D. B. Jones; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 14,* 243, 244.

Edalji, G., Case of
Inquiry, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 13,* 19.

Edenderry
Summonses—Legality of Service by Constabulary.
Q. Mr. H. Burke; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1460.

Edinburgh
Register House, Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Education Acts Amendment Bill
c. Report from Standing Committee on Trade, *Mar. 18,* 488.

Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill
Medical Inspection, Cost of, and Grant for.
Qs. Mr. Jowett; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18,* 421, 422.

Education of Afflicted Children (Ireland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 13,* 66.

Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill
Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Seaverns; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 14,* 242.
Q. Mr. A. Henderson; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14,* 256.
Teachers Unemployed owing to—Question of Compensation.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 14,* 242.

Education, Board of
President—Rt. Hon. R. McKenna.
Parliamentary Secretary.—Mr. T. Lough.
Copyists, Temporary, Gratuities to, on Retirement.
Os. Mr. Fletcher, *Mar. 13,* 120, 121.

Education (England and Wales)
[*For* particular Places, *see their Names.*]
Administration of Acts—Necessity for Identity of Interpretation.
Q. Mr. Carlile; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 14,* 243.
Attendance—Basis of Calculating Average for Purposes of Grant.
Qs. Mr. Bridgeman; *As.* Mr. McKenna. *Mar. 18,* 477.
Code, Application to Wales under New Arrangement.
Q. Sir W. Anson; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 13,* 39, 40.
Grants
Allocation of.
Q. Mr. Clough; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 19,* 668, 669.
Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of.
Os. Lord Balcarres, *Mar. 20,* 975: Mr. McKenna, 975, 976; Lord R. Cecil, 976; Sir J. L. Walton, 978–982; Sir H. Craik, 984, 985; Sir J. Randles, 986; Mr. Rawlinson, 987; Sir F. Banbury, 987; Mr. Forster, 988–990.
Qs. Mr. Carlile; Lord Balcarres; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 14,* 243.
Circumstances of Granting.
Os. Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar.* 23, 1377.
Effect of Section 96 of Act of 1870.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 25,* 1523.
Special Grants, Expenditure of £200,000 Voted for.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18,* 422.

[*cont.*

Education (England and Wales)—*cont.*

Hygiene and Temperance, Inclusion of, in Code, proposed.
Os. Dr. Rutherford, *Mar. 13,* 99, 100; Mr. McKenna, 108; Mr. C. Roberts, 119, 120.

Scholarships Scheme, Working of.
Os. Mr. Pickersgill, *Mar. 13,* 93, 94; Sir G. Kekewich, 110; Mr. Bridgeman, 112, 113.

Schools
Public Meetings, Letting for—Legislation to deal with matter, proposed.
Q. Mr. Marnham; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18,* 475.

Repairs to, Policy as to.
Os. Lord Balcarres, *Mar. 13,* 116, 117.

Report on Administration of, under Welsh Intermediate Act, Presented, *Mar. 13,* 4, 9.

Secondary Education
Policy as to, Criticisms on.
Os. Mr. Pickersgill, *Mar. 13,* 91–95; Mr. McKenna, 107; Mr. Yoxall, 114–116; Mr. Adkins, 121–123.

Regulations, Date of Publishing.
Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Mar. 20–21,* 857.

Report of Consultative Committee, Terms of.
Os. Mr. Pickersgill, *Mar. 13,* 92.

Sunday Teaching of a Socialistic Character given in Certain Schools, alleged.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *Mar. 13,* 86–90; Mr. McKenna, 101; Mr. Summerbell, 110, 111.

Teachers
Deferred Annuity Fund, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Lane-Fox; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 23,* 1367.

Pensions, Information as to.
Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 19,* 668.

Salaries in Non-provided Schools.
Q. Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18,* 476.

Powers of Managers with regard to.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 27,* 1814.

Return as to.
Q. Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 25,* 1514.

Statement showing Numbers and Salaries, Presented, *Mar. 20,* 821; *Mar. 21,* 1205.

Workmen's Compensation Act, Application to.
Q. Viscount Valentia; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 23,* 1370.

Education (England and Wales)—*cont.*

Training Colleges
Building Grants for—Amount Voted.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18,* 417.

Hostels, Application of Grant for Providing.
Q. Mr. W. Hope; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18,* 436.

Schemes, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Toulmin; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Mar. 20–21,* 857, 858.

Theological Tests, Disabilities Imposed by.
O. Mr. Walsh, *Mar. 13,* 126.

Vote for, Reason for Increase in.
Os. Lord Balcarres, *Mar. 13,* 117–119.

Universities and Colleges and Intermediate Education, Wales, Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Voluntary Schools, Policy as to.
Os. Lord Balcarres, *Mar. 20,* 975; Lord R. Cecil, 977, 978; Col. R. Williams, 985.

Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Welsh Department, Information as to.
Qs. Mr. E. Cecil; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 13,* 17, 40.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Mar. 20,* 856.

Appointments—Qualifications of Mr. Davies and Mr. O. Edwards, etc.
Os. Lord R. Cecil, *Mar. 13,* 96–98, 102; Mr. McKenna, 102–106; Sir F. Banbury, 103; Mr. Rawlinson, 103, 104; Mr. S. Wortley, 108, 109; Sir G. Kekewich, 109; Sir A. Thomas, 110; Mr. Bridgeman, 111, 112; Mr. Bowles, 125; Mr. Bridgeman, *Mar. 20,* 982–984; Mr. Lane-Fox, 991.

Chief Inspector, Salary of.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *Mar. 13,* 90; Lord R. Cecil, 95, 96.

Chief Secretary, Relations with Permanent Secretary at Whitehall.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *Mar. 13,* 90.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 13,* 40.

Cost of.
Os. Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 13,* 105, 106.

Duties and Powers of.
Os. Lord R. Cecil, *Mar. 13,* 96–99.

Grants to.
Os. Lord R. Cecil, *Mar. 13,* 95.

Legal Advisers, Arrangements for.
Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Mar. 20–21,* 857.

Welsh Language, Regulations as to Teaching of, in Welsh Schools.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *Mar. 13,* 91.

West Riding Appeal Case—Judgments Presented, *Mar. 13,* 3.

Education (Ireland)

[*For* Particular Places, *see their Names.*]

- Board—Proposals for Appointing Successor to Late Judge Carton.
  - *Q.* Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 447, 448.
- Bursaries, Possibility of Establishing System of.
  - *Os.* Mr. W. Long, *Mar. 23,* 1413, 1414; Mr. Dillon, 1414.
- Christian Brothers' Schools
  - Pupils in and Grants to.
    - *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 196, 197.
  - Work of.
    - *Os.* Mr. T. M. Healy, *Mar. 23,* 1405.
- Co-ordination of—Publication of Report of Committee of Inquiry into, proposed.
  - *Os.* Mr. Long, *Mar. 23,* 1413; Mr. Dillon, 1413, 1443.
- Development Fund, Amount Allocated from.
  - *Os.* Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23,* 1377–1381; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1408; Mr. Dillon, 1443, 1444.
- Equivalent Grant, Amount of.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 14,* 197.
- Grant for—Comparison with Great Britain.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13,* 62.
- Intermediate—Amount of Grant.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 196.
- Legislative Proposals of the Government.
  - *Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 872.
- National Commissioners
  - Proceedings of, Lack of Information as to.
    - *Os.* Mr. Sloan, *Mar. 23,* 1400, 1401; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1407.
  - Report of—Tabling, proposed.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Murphy, Mr. J. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1826, 1827.
- National School Teachers
  - Civil Rights of, Amendment of Rules as to.
    - *Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1827.
  - Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc.
    - *Os.* Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23,* 1386–1388; Mr. Murphy, 1394–1397; Sir T. Esmonde, 1399, 1400; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1406; Mr. Long, 1411; Mr. Gwynn, 1415, 1416; Mr. Birrell, 1430; Mr. Dillon, 1439–1442.

Education (Ireland)—*cont.*

- National School Teachers—*cont.*
  - Diplomas, System of Awarding.
    - *Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1663, 1664.
  - No. 5735, Case of—Outside Work Permitted to Teachers.
    - *Q.* Mr. Murphy;; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1463.
  - Number of and Increments Awarded to.
    - *Q.* Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22,* 1301.
  - Pension Fund Reports on Valuation, Presented, *Mar. 14,* 163, 189.
  - Residences of Teachers, Loans and Plans for.
    - *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 869.
  - Salaries
    - Comparison of Scale with that paid in England and Scotland, etc.
      - *Os.* Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23,* 1384–1386; Mr. Murphy, 1394; Mr. Birrell, 1427–1430; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1446.
  - Salaries withdrawn during 1906.
    - *Q.* Mr. Mooney; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 426.
- Primary, Condition of—Proposals for Improving and Increasing Grant, etc.
  - *Os.* Captain Craig, *Mar. 20,* 992–995; Mr. J. Redmond, 995, 996; Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23,* 1373–1392, 1448; Mr. Murphy, 1392–1398; Sir T. Esmond, 1399, 1400; Mr. Sloan, 1400–1403; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1403–1409; Mr. W. Long, 1409–1414; Mr. Gwynn, 1414–1419; Mr. Birrell, 1419–1435; Mr. Wyndham, 1435; Mr. Dillon, 1438–1445; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1445–1447; Mr. H. Law, 1447, 1448.
- Schools
  - Building Plans and Grants, Proposals as to.
    - *Os.* Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23,* 1381; Mr. Birrell, 1425–1427; Mr. Wyndham, 1436, 1437; Mr. Dillon, 1438; Mr. H. Law, 1447.
    - *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 426.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 865.
    - *Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20,* 867.

[*cont.*

Education (Ireland)—*cont.*
- Schools—*cont.*
  - Building Plans, etc.—*cont.*
    - Amount actually Issued.
      - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1775.
    - Applications for, Procedure as to.
      - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1775.
  - Insanitary Condition of, etc.
    - *Os.* Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23,* 1383; Mr. Sloan, 1401; Mr. Long, 1410.
  - Maintenance, Funds available for.
    - *Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1826.
  - New Schools, Grant for, Proposal as to.
    - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25,* 1521.
  - Non-Vested Schools, Grant available for Improving.
    - *Q.* Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1480.
  - Rebuilding, Expenditure of Sum voted for.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 864, 865.
- System of, and Policy with regard to.
  - *Os.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 23,* 1419–1425.
- Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Education, Scotland
- *Vice-President of the Council*—Right Hon. J. Sinclair.
- [*For* particular places, *see their names.*]
- English Teaching in Primary Schools—Memorandum Presented, *Mar. 19,* 599, 638.
- General Report by Inspector, Presented, *Mar. 19,* 599, 638.
- Grant for New Schools, Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26,* 1660.
- Inspectors, System of Selecting.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Smeaton; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 20-21,* 861, 862.
- Legislative Proposals for Dealing with Franchise.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Weir, Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26,* 1660.
- Privy Council Committee, Information as to Meetings and Proceedings of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Smeaton; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27,* 1821.
- Report by Chief Inspector, Presented, *Mar. 14,* 163, 189.
- Teachers—Roman Catholic Teachers' Pension Rights under the Bill.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Murphy, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27,* 1822.
- Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Education (Scotland) Bill
- Intro., *Mar. 20,* 880.
- Application of Provisions of, to England, Proposals as to.
  - *Os.* Mr. A. Chamberlain, Mr. Morton, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20,* 908.
- Provisions of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Morton, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 25,* 1517.

Edwards, Mr. A. C. [Denbigh District]
- London & North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 763–765.
- Railways—Combination of Companies, Development of, Tabling Correspondence, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1511.
- Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 378.

Egypt
- Ancient Monuments, Proposals for Preserving.
  - *Q.* Mr. Cheetham; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25,* 1498.
- Assize Courts—New System for Appeals, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22,* 1267, 1268.
- Assuan Dam, Reason for Raising.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25,* 1498.
  - *Q.* Mr. Alden; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26,* 1641, 1642.
- Cairo Building Operations, Obstructions to Traffic caused by, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22,* 1267.
- Education
  - Curriculum of Schools.
    - *Q.* Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22,* 1266, 1267.
  - Teachers, expediting Training of, proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22,* 1267.
- Fathy Bey Zaglool, Protests against appointment of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Dillon; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14,* 220.
- General Assembly, Tabling Resolutions of, proposed.
  - *Qs.* Sir H. Cotton; Mr. Rees; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14,* 221.
- Lunacy Law—Accommodation for Lunatics, etc.
  - *Qs.* Dr. Rutherford; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14,* 221, 222.
- Nationalist Party in, Measures proposed for dealing with.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22,* 1266.

Eight Hours Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 25*, 1527.

Electric Supply Corporation Bill
l. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 597.
Bill withdrawn, *Mar. 19*, 597.

Electric Supply Corporation (No. 2) Bill
Bill withdrawn, *Mar. 19*, 597.

Eleven o'clock Rule
Suspension of, Motion (Mr. W. Whiteley), *Mar. 26*, 1764.

Elgin and Kincardine, Earl of—*Secretary of State for the Colonies.*
British Indians in the Colonies, Disabilities of, Bringing Question before the Conference, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 627–630.

Elliot Junction
Railway Accident
  Penalty to be Imposed on Company for lax state of Affairs.
    Q. Mr. C. E. Price; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 19*, 666.
  Revision of Sentence on Gourlay, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. Wardle; *As.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Mar. 13*, 42.
    Q. Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 15*, 341, 342.
    Qs. Mr. Bell, Mr. C. E. Price; *As.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Mar. 25*, 1517, 1518.
    Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27*, 1771.

Ellis, Mr. J. E. [Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe]
Opium Traffic—Proposals for Restriction, *Mar. 19*, 654.
Proposals for Commission or Conference, *Mar. 20, 21*, 850.
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 360, 363.
Standing Committees
  Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure, and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 911–915.
  Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was Responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1591.

Emmott, Mr. A. [Oldham]
Railways—Payment of Interest out of Capital during construction of New Lines—Amendment of Standing Order 167, *Mar. 14*, 312–314.

Empire Day
School Children, Demonstrations by—Encouragement by Education Board, proposed.
  Qs. Captain Craig, Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18*, 476, 477.

Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill
c. 2R.* *Mar. 19*, 779.

Ennis State Inebriate Reformatory
Admissions to and Discharges from, etc.
  Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 648.

Ensor Estate
Reinstatement Claim of F. Murphy.
  Q. Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 676.

Epping
Tithe rent charge Redemption, Cause for delay in dealing with.
  Q. Mr. J. M. Henderson; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 26*, 1657, 1658.

Equivalent Grants
Arrangement for and Application of.
  Qs. Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25*, 1456, 1498, 1499.

Esmonde, Sir T. G. [Wexford, N.]
Arklow Harbour Improvement Works, Proposals as to, *Mar. 27*, 1771.
Courtown Harbour—Report of Agriculture Department on, *Mar. 27*, 1771.
Dublin Valuation Office and Office of Registrar of Titles—Memorials from Clerks, *Mar. 27*, 1779.
Education
  Primary, Condition of Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1399, 1400.
  Teachers, Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1399, 1400.
Hibernian Academy
  Commission Report, Recommendations, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 81.
  Control over by the Board of Agriculture, Objections to, *Mar. 13*, 81.
  Grant to, *Mar. 13*, 82.
Historical Manuscripts, Irish—Collections in Course of Publication, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1779.
Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23*, 1399.
Land Purchase—Public Trustee, Terms of Appointment, *Mar. 27*, 1771.

Essex, Mr. C. W. [Gloucester, Cirencester]
Telegraph Messengers' Health, Effect of Docket System on, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
Trade, Board of—Reprinting of White Paper 340, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1268.
Workhouses—Proposals for Permitting Aged Married Couples to Live together, *Mar. 22*, 1273.

Esslemont, Mr. G. B. [Aberdeen S.]
Portuguese Import Duty on Fish—Result of Representations, *Mar. 13*, 29.

Estate Duty
Offices, Appointment of Solicitors to.
Q. Mr. O'Doherty; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 18*, 439.

Estimates
(*See also titles* Army Estimates, Civil Service Estimates *and* Navy Estimates)

Evans Estate
Rent Collection Pending Negotiations for Sale.
Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 441.

Evans, Mr. S. T. [Glamorganshire, Mid.]
Bills
Private Members' Bills having obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1707.
Standing Committees, Referring Bills to
Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1719.
Motion for Referring Bills to, proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1690, 1692, 1694, 1700, 1702.

Evans-Gordon, Major Sir W. [Tower Hamlets, Stepney]
Aliens—Bankruptcy Statistics, for last Five Years, *Mar. 25*, 1509, 1510; *Mar. 27*, 1807.
Army
Garrisons at Mediterranean Stations, Policy as to Reduction of, *Mar. 18*, 577, 578, 579.
Military Attachés to Foreign Courts, Language Qualifications of, *Mar. 18*, 424.
Terms of Service—Effect of Seven and Five Years' System on Reserve, *Mar. 18*, 424.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 577, 579.
National Physical Laboratory
Inquiry—Date of Issuing Report, *Mar. 14*, 230.
Work of—Grants Received, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1655, 1656.
Russia — Bankruptcy, Systematic and Fraudulent, among Traders—Allegations as to, *Mar. 25*. 1495.
Woolwich Arsenal, Piece-work, Grievances as to Price Fixing for, *Mar. 27*, 1793.

Everett, Mr. R. L. [Suffolk, Woodbridge]
Charities—Liability to Land Tax, *Mar. 26*, 1643.

Evictions
See under Ireland.

Exchequer and Audit Department
Colonial Audit Branch Staff, Appointments to.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 19.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Exhibition, International
Proposal for Holding—Submitting to Colonial Conference proposed.
Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26*, 1672.

Exports and Imports
Duties on Imports, Extension of System, proposed.
Os. Mr. Hills, *Mar. 26*, 1746–1748.

Faber, Lord
Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14*, 170.

Faber, Mr. G. D. [York]
Volunteers Loans' to, for Drill Halls, etc.—Transfer of Mortgages, *Mar. 22*, 1290.

Faber, Mr. G. H. [Boston]
Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of Effecting, *Mar. 14*, 279.
Gold Reserve—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1278.
Post Office Savings Bank, Liabilities to Depositors—Date of Presenting Statement, *Mar. 22*, 1279.
Stock Exchange—Fee on Transfer of American Railway Stocks, *Mar. 20–21*, 851.

Factories and Workshops
Insanitary Conditions, Complaints as to, and Prosecutions for (1906–7).
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald: *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26*, 1649, 1650.
Inspectors
Assistants, Method of appointing.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 13*, 30, 31.
Inquests attended by Assistants.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1504.
Return of Names and previous Occupations, etc., Ordered, *Mar. 22*, 1265.

Factory and Workshops Act (1901) Amendment Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 490.

Falcarragh
Purchase, Proposals for Portion of Earl of Leitrim's Estate.
  Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 868, 869.

Falmouth Gas Bill
c. *Rep.* Mar. 14*, 188.
  Con. Mar. 22*, 1261.
  3R.* *Mar. 26*, 1620.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Fardell, Sir T. G. [Paddington, S.]
Army—Further Employment of Lieutenants-Colonel, *Mar. 14*, 213.

Farrell, Mr. J. P. [Longford, N.]
Carmichael-O'Ferrall Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 14*, 197.
Farmers, Facilities for Loans to, for Improvements of Dwelling, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 198.
Lisnagera—Area of Land purchased by C. Durnett, *Mar. 14*, 198.
Newtowncashel Magistrate, Appointment of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 646.
Rathcline—Reinstatement Claim of J. Mullooly, *Mar. 19*, 649.
Sonnagh—Case of Lennon Girls, *Mar. 19*, 649.

Fell, Mr. A. [Great Yarmouth]
Agriculture—Labour Employment Bureau, Establishment of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 245, 246; *Mar. 20*, 854.
Fiji Sugar-cane Fields, Health of Natives employed in, *Mar. 26*, 1636.
Income-tax, Charge on Mining Dividends, *Mar. 20–21*, 852.
International Exhibition, Proposals as to, *Mar. 26*, 1672.
New Hebrides
  Native fitness for Work, *Mar. 26*, 1635.
  Native Labour, Recruitment for New Caledonia, *Mar. 26*, 1636.
Post Office Mail Service to New Zealand, Routes for, *Mar. 14*, 241.
Sugar Beet Cultivation in Ireland, Result of Experiments, *Mar. 26*, 1664.

Felt
German Goods marked "Sheffield," Prevention of Importation of.
  Q. Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *23*, 1371.

Fenwick, Mr. C. [Northumberland, Wansbeck]
Corrupt Practices Act, Amendment, Proposals for, *Mar. 14*, 238.
Letters, Addresses hired for Receipt of—Frauds perpetrated, etc., *Mar. 14*, 240.

Ferens, Mr. T. R. [Hull, E.]
Moray Firth, Trawling in—Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Mar. 13*, 43.
Railway Rates—Proposals for dealing with Grievances, *Mar. 18*, 473.

Ferguson, Mr. R. C. M. [Leith Burghs]
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 387.
Standing Committee
  Increase in Number of, Alterations in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1554–1558.
  Scottish Committee, Proposals as to Establishing, *Mar. 25*, 1555–1557.

Ferries (Ireland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 879.

Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. G. [Fermanagh, N.]
Army Ordnance Corps—Appointment of Warrant Officers, *Mar. 26*, 1632.
Land Purchase—Cost of Copies of Maps of Estates, *Mar. 26*, 1630.

Ffrench, Mr. P. [Wexford, S.]
Rowe's Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25*, 1481.
Wexford, Land Purchase—Delay in Inspecting Estates, *Mar. 25*, 1464.

Field, Mr. W. [Dublin, St. Patrick]
Cashel Postmastership, Appointment to, *Mar. 20–21*, 833.
Comptroller and Auditor-General, Age for Retirement of, *Mar. 13*, 18.
Cotton Prices in New York and Liverpool Difference between, *Mar. 20–21*, 834.
Exchequer and Audit Department—Appointments to Colonial Audit Branch, *Mar. 13*, 19.
Kingstown, Houses Closed on Certain Estates owing to Insanitation, *Mar. 25*, 1455.
Land Commission Staff, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 639.
London Stock Exchange Transactions in Bank Shares—Violation of Leeman's Act, etc., *Mar. 13*, 22.

Fiennes, Mr. E. E. [Oxfordshire, Banbury]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1090.
Licensed Houses known as Cow-houses and Cow-sheds—Meaning of Term, *Mar. 20–21*, 852.
Transvaal
  Chinese Labour—Policy of the Transvaal Government, *Mar. 25*, 1494.
  Native Labour, Facilities for Recruitment of, *Mar. 25*, 1495.
Yeomanry, Granting Ration Allowance to, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1289.

Fiji
Forced Labour, Conditions of Employing.
Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18,* 458, 459.
Guano Monopoly Obtained by Ex-High Commissioner.
Os. Mr. Smeaton, *Mar. 18,* 557.
Sugar-Cane Fields, Health of Natives Employed in.
Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26,* 1636.

Financial and Commercial Gambling Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 18,* 489.

Findlay, Mr. A. [Lanark, N.E.]
Scottish Churches Commission, Date of Effecting Settlement, *Mar. 14,* 248.

First Commissioner of Works
Rt. Hon. L. Harcourt.

First Lord of the Admiralty
Lord Tweedmouth.

First Lord of the Treasury
Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Fisheries
Inquiry into Fishing Rights, Proposals for.
Q. Mr. R. Duncan; *A.* Mr. H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 22,* 1276.
Q. Mr. Helme; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 26,* 1629.
Ireland—Brand for Irish-cured Fish—Publication of Report of Committee of Inquiry, proposed.
Q. Mr Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1823, 1824.
Scotland—Rivers, Public Right of Fishing in—Legislation to unify Present Law proposed.
Q. Mr. Menzies; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18,* 480, 481.
Qs. Sir J. Jardine; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 19,* 673, 674.
Q. Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 25,* 1515, 1516.
Q. Mr. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26,* 1661.
Trawling
Destruction of Fish by Trawlers.
Os. Mr. A. Williamson, *Mar. 18,* 560, 561; Mr. Crombie, 566.
"Endeavour," Damage done to, outside Wick Harbour by Trawler "Campania."
Qs. Mr. Morton, Mr. A. S. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27,* 1822, 1823.
Moray Firth, *see that title.*
Prosecutions, Procedure in.
Qs. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 19,* 665, 666.

Fisheries—*cont.*
Trawling—*cont.*
Protection of grounds against Illegal Trawling.
Cruisers Employed
Qs. Mr. Morton, Mr. A. Williamson; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18,* 484, 485.
Q. Mr. Mallet; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 23,* 1366, 1367.
Inadequate Nature of.
Os. Sir A. Bignold, *Mar. 18,* 564; Mr. Morton, 573; Mr. J. C. Wason, 575; Mr. Sinclair, 576.
Proposals for Inquiry.
Qs. Mr. Mildmay; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14,* 253, 254.
Scottish Stations, Cases Reported from, during last five years.
Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. A. S. Wilson, Mr. A. Williamson, Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18,* 478, 479.
South Coast, Measures for Protection of.
Q. Mr. Mildmay; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 27,* 1790, 1791.

Fishery Board, Scotland
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

FitzGerald's Divorce Bill
c. 2R.* *Mar. 22,* 1262.

Flavin, Mr. M. J. [Kerry, N.]
Ballylongford Untenanted Land, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 19,* 678.
Douglas Estate, Purchase Proposals for, *Mar. 26,* 1630.
Listowel Estate Untenanted Land, Purchase Proposals for, *Mar. 19,* 677.
Lixnaw—Prevention of Floods in, *Mar. 26,* 1631.

Fletcher, Mr. J. S. [Hampstead]
Education Board Copyists, Temporary Gratuities to on Retirement, *Mar. 13,* 120, 121.

Flynn, Mr. J. C. [Cork, N.]
Cork
County Telephone Extension, Proposals as to, *Mar. 20–21,* 874.
Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of, *Mar. 20–21,* 871.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill
l. 3R.* *Mar. 18,* 405.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19,* 637.

Foreign Office
  Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.
  Under Secretary—Lord Fitzmaurice.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Forster, Mr. H. W. [Kent, Sevenoaks]
  Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1043, 1088, 1119.
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1.) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 988.
  Education, Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20*, 988–990.
  Standing Committees
    Business Committee consisting of Speaker and six other Members to be appointed to consider all Bills, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1584–1586.
    Motion for referring Bills to, Proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1695.

Foster, Sir B. W. [Derby, Ilkestone]
  Rural District Medical Officers and Inspector of Nuisances, Salaries of, *Mar. 18*, 437.

Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H. H., *Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster* [Wolverhampton, E.]
  Bills
    Private Members Bills having obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1707.
    Standing Committees, referring Bills to.
      Bills the Second Reading of which was taken aften 11 p.m. Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1612.
      Exemption of Bills imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1715.
      Motion for Referring Bills to, proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1698, 1699.
  Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 22*, 1308.
  Standing Committees
    Business Committee consisting of Speaker and Six other Members to be appointed to consider all Bills, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1581.
    Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1547–1552.
    Scottish Committee, Proposals as to establishing, *Mar. 25*, 1550.

France
  Fontevrault Abbey, English Royal Personages interred in, Application to French Government for Permission to remove, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Herbert; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 25*, 1464.

Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill.
  c. Order for Second Reading read, and Bill withdrawn, *Mar. 25*, 1616.

Friendly Societies Registry
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Fuller Estate
  Untenanted Land, Purchase of.
    Q. Mr. H. Burke; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1663.

Fullerton, Mr. [Cumberland, Egremont]
  Transvaal, Chinese Labour
    Policy of the Transvaal Government, *Mar. 25*, 1493.
    Repatriation, Measures taken for by Mine Owners, *Mar. 25*, 1493.

Galway
  County Court, Gaelic Interpreters in.
    Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 23*, 1367.
  Prison—Case of M. Hawes.
    Qs. Capt. Craig; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 17; *Mar. 20–21*, 866.

Galwey's Divorce Bill
  c. 2R.* *Mar. 13*, 8.

Gas Companies
  Accounts for 1906, Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1767.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill
  c. *Rep.** *Mar. 14*, 188.
    *Con.** *Mar. 19*, 635.
    3R.* *Mar. 22*, 1261.
  l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Gateshead
  Schools—Notice issued by Committee as to Children living in Durham.
    Q. Mr. J. W. Taylor; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Mar. 20–21*, 856.

General Accident, Fire, and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Bill
  l. 2R.* *Mar. 20*, 781.

General Medical Council
  Accounts Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1619, 1622.

Germany

Agricultural Machinery Imports from United Kingdom—Figures given in Returns.

Q. Mr. Remnant; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 18,* 474.

Hamburg Strike—Prevention of Exportation of British Workmen to replace Strikers, proposed.

Q. Mr. Clynes; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 22,* 1276.

Gibb, Mr. J. [Middlesex, Harrow]

Burial Grounds, New, Control of Local Government Board over, *Mar. 18,* 438.

Pett—Transfer of Public-House Licence, *Mar. 20-21,* 822.

Gibraltar

Garrison, Reduction of

Os. Mr. Ashley, *Mar. 14,* 307; Mr. Haldane, 309, 310.

Ginnell, Mr. L. [Westmeath, N.]

Gradwell, M. R., Estate of Untenanted Land, Purchase of, *Mar. 25,* 1480.

Gregg, Estate, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1477.

Kavanagh Estate, Existing Tenants' Interest, Power as to Purchase of, *Mar. 25,* 1476.

Labourers Act

Cottages — Selection of Untenanted Land for Sites, proposed, *Mar. 20-21,* 863.

Section 8, Powers conferred by, *Mar. 20-21,* 862.

Land Act, 1903

Effect and Policy of, *Mar. 13,* 62.

Legality of Advances on Insolvent Property, *Mar. 13,* 63, 64.

Land Purchase, Timber on Estates offered for Sale, Power to regulate cutting down, *Mar. 25,* 1479.

Land Valuation, etc., Officials engaged in—System of making Appointments, *Mar. 13,* 44.

Landlords using Legal Oppressive Methods for Rent Recovery—Refusal of Aid of Forces of the Crown in serving Writs, etc., *Mar. 20-21,* 863.

McCormack, Miss, Estate of, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25,* 1477-1478.

Mullingar

Rural District Council Letter to Local Government Board, Purport of and Reply to, *Mar. 20-21,* 863.

Telephone Extension to, proposed, *Mar. 19,* 644.

O'Dwyer Estate, Annual Rental, Sale Price, etc., *Mar. 25,* 1475.

Westmeath Untenanted Land, Acquisition of, *Mar. 13,* 44.

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*Secretary of State for the Home Department* [Leeds, W.]

Aliens

Criminal Statistics for Metropolitan Area during last Five Years, *Mar. 26,* 1649.

Expulsion of—Case of S. Bernstein, *Mar. 14,* 192.

Baronets, Degree of—Report of Committee of Inquiry, Date of Presenting, *Mar. 27,* 1786.

Calico, Dressing put in—Case of Ann Wilson, *Mar. 26,* 1647.

Channel Islands Shipping Laws, Progress of Negotiations for improving, *Mar. 19,* 660.

Criminal Statistics

Crimes in England (1902-1907), *Mar. 25,* 1508.

Habitual Criminals at large in England (1902-1907), *Mar. 25,* 1507.

Dangerous Performances Act, Extending to Women, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 232.

Devonshire Constabulary Superintendents, Reason for Appointment of Retired Military Officers, *Mar. 27,* 1805.

Edalji, Case of—Proposals for Inquiry, *Mar. 13,* 19.

Factories

Insanitary Conditions, Complaints as to, (1906-7), *Mar. 26,* 1650.

Inspectors

Assistant, Method of Appointing, *Mar. 13,* 31.

Inquests attended by Assistants, *Mar. 25,* 1504.

Hull Juvenile Offenders, Method of dealing with, *Mar. 22,* 1277; *Mar. 25,* 1506.

Laundries in Religious Institutions, Inspection of—Legislative Proposals, *Mar. 20,* 853.

Liquor Traffic

Children taken into Public Houses, Legislative Proposals for restricting, *Mar. 25,* 1505.

Clubs, Necessity for dealing with, *Mar. 14,* 230, 231; *Mar. 19,* 660.

Grocers' Licences, Amount sold under during 1905-6, *Mar. 27,* 1786.

Licensed Houses known as Cow-houses and Cow-sheds—Meaning of Term, *Mar. 20,* 852.

Licensing Justices, Pecuniary Liabilities of, *Mar. 26,* 1648.

Six-day and Early-Closing Licences, Compensation Charges on, *Mar. 27,* 1806.

Motor Omnibuses—Obstruction caused by Breakdowns in Congested Streets, *Mar. 20,* 824.

[*cont.*

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*cont.*
- Omnibus Tickets, Details shown on—Rule as to Inspection, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1646, 1647.
- Parliamentary Franchise, Age for, in Foreign Countries, *Mar. 25*, 1466.
- Pentonville Prison Warders, Reason for Transfer of, *Mar. 18*, 468.
- Pett—Transfer of Public-house Licence, *Mar. 20–21*, 822.
- Police
  - Exclusion from Civil Services of the Crown, Reason for, *Mar. 26*, 1646.
  - Houses of Parliament, Pay for Duty at, *Mar. 18*, 468; *Mar. 22*, 1299.
  - Metropolitan
    - Holiday, Extension of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 232.
    - Libraries of M Division, Information as to, *Mar. 26*, 1651.
- Police Court Fees, Fines, etc., due to Local Authorities—Periodical Statement, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 660.
- Portsmouth Dockyard Electrical Department, Ventilation of, *Mar. 19*, 659.
- Potteries, Increase of Lead Poisoning in—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1298.
- Prisons
  - Dietary, Labour, etc., *Mar. 18*, 433.
  - Prisoners Confined for over Twenty Years, Information as to, *Mar. 22*, 1299.
- Rates not paid in Metropolitan Boroughs—Charges for Summonses, *Mar. 13*, 31.
- Rayner, H. G., Commutation of Death Sentence on, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1806.
- Salford Magistrates—Remarks and Course of Action taken in Case of Passive Resisters, *Mar. 25*, 1506.
- Separation Orders made by Magistrates and Judges during 1905 and 1906, *Mar. 18*, 467.
- Stepney—Case of Ellen Simpson, *Mar. 26*, 1627.
- Suffolk, West, Crime in, *Mar. 26*, 1648.
- Sutton (Surrey)—Fees Payable to Justices' Clerks for Rate Summonses, *Mar. 20–21*, 853.
- Truck Acts, Alleged Contravention of, by Charitable Institutions, *Mar. 14*, 231.
- Vaccination—Case of Mr. Manger, *Mar. 25*, 1508.
- Vagrancy, Proposals for dealing with, *Mar. 13*, 30.
- Vivisection Inspectors, Salaries of, *Mar. 27*, 1805.
- Watlington Petty Sessions—Case of Quarterman, *Mar. 14*, 233.
- Weatherley, C., Case of, *Mar. 18*, 467.
- Wiltshire, Crime in, *Mar. 25*, 1508.

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*cont.*
- Women's Suffrage
  - Demonstrations—Prevention of Participation by Young Girls from the Provinces, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1650.
  - Girls brought from Lancashire, Measures taken to send home, *Mar. 25*, 1509.
- Workmen's Compensation Act
  - Accidents happening after July 1st, Basis of giving Compensation for, *Mar. 14*, 232.
  - Extension of, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 469.
- Yorkshire, Criminal Statistics for East Riding, *Mar. 25*, 1504.

Glasgow
- Provincial Council for Training of Teachers, Alleged Refusal of Grants to Teachers, taking Vacation Courses abroad.
  - *Q.* Mr. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27*, 1822.

Glasgow Corporation Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.

Glentawe, Lord
- Companies Bill, 2R. *Mar. 14*, 173.

Gold Coast
- Boundary of French Soudan—Agreement, Presented, *Mar. 19*, 599, 639.

Gold Reserve
- *See under* Coinage and Currency.

Gooch, Mr. G. P. [Bath]
- Turkey — Customs Duties, Conditions attached to Increase, *Mar 25*, 1466.

Goodall Estate
- Sale Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 49.

Gooseberry Mildew
- Ireland, Prevalence in, and Proposals for dealing with.
  - *Q.* Colonel R. Williams; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 18*, 436.
- Origin of, and Proposals for dealing with.
  - *Q.* Mr. Belloc; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 14*, 208.
- Spraying with Fungicide, Efficacy of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Belloc; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 212.

Gordon, Mr. J. [Londonderry, S.]
- Boycotting and Intimidation, Prevalence of, *Mar. 13*, 136–141.
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act 1887
  - Procedure under, *Mar. 13*, 135.
  - Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 133, 141

[*cont.*

Gordon, Mr. J.—*cont.*

Crimelessness of Ireland, alleged, *Mar. 13,* 134.

Mercers Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 14,* 191.

Railways—Payment of Interest out of Capital during Construction of New Lines—Amendment of Standing Order 167, *Mar. 14,* 319.

United Irish League, Boycotting and Intimidation by, *Mar. 12,* 138, 139.

Gort

Board of Guardians, Circumstances of Surcharge on.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 867, 868.

Government Departments

Contracts, Observance of Fair Wages Clause in—Proposals for Inquiry.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 18,* 487.

Powers and Duties, Return as to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Long; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22,* 1310.

Government Property

Rates on—Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Gradwell, Mr. R. Estate of

Untenanted Land, Purchase of.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1480.

Granard, Earl of

Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14,* 164, 175.

Grangemore

Estate purchased from Major Conlon, Disposal of.
Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22,* 1281.

Gravesend

Water-Guard Inspector, Reasons for Appointing Naval Officer.
Qs. Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 27,* 1816.

Great Central Railway Bill

c. 2R.* *Mar. 13,* 8.

Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill.

c. 2R., *Mar. 19,* 744.

Instruction to Committee out of Order, *Mar. 19,* 744.

Greenwich Hospital

Age Pensions, Conditions of Granting.
Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 20–21,* 823.

Greenwich Observatory

London County Council Electric Power Station, Effect of—Reply to Report of Committee, etc.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18,* 449.

Greenwood, Mr. G. [Peterborough]

Spurious Sports Bill, Proposals as to Facilities for, *Mar. 14,* 252.

Gregg Estate

Purchase of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1477.

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs* [Northumberland, Berwick]

Belgium—Staff of Consul-General in Antwerp, *Mar. 14,* 225.

China

Amoy, Assault on British Subjects at—Compensation Claim, *Mar. 27,* 1803.

Anhui Mining Final Contract, Progress of Negotiations as to, *Mar. 18,* 432.

Shanghai—Circumstances of Murder of Police-Constable Morrow, *Mar. 19,* 657.

Colonies, Correspondence with—Procedure in Publishing, *Mar. 14,* 218.

Congo Free State

Accounts—Composition of Colonial Council, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1641.

Belgian Commission—Date of Presenting Report, *Mar. 15,* 339.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20,* 968.

Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20,* 968.

Crete—Protection of Mussulman Population against Christian Persecution, *Mar. 14,* 192.

Cuba—Claim of Messrs. Fowler against the Spanish Government, *Mar. 26,* 1626.

Diplomatic and Consular Service—Commercial Intelligence, Reason for Reduction in Estimate for, *Mar. 14,* 223.

Egypt

Assize Courts—New System for Appeals, *Mar. 22,* 1268.

Assuan Dam, Reason for Raising of, *Mar. 26,* 1642.

Cairo Building Operations, Obstructions to Traffic caused by, *Mar. 22,* 1267.

[*cont.*

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*cont.*
- Egypt—*cont.*
  - Education
    - Curriculum of Schools, *Mar. 22,* 1267.
    - Expediting Training of Teachers, proposed, *Mar. 22,* 1267.
  - Fathy Bey Zaglool, Protests against Appointment of, *Mar. 14,* 220.
  - General Assembly, Tabling Resolutions of, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 221.
  - Lunacy Law—Accommodation for Lunatics, etc., *Mar. 14,* 222.
  - Nationalist Party, Proposals for Dealing with, *Mar. 22,* 1266.
- Fontevrault Abbey, English Royal Personages interred in—Application to French Government for Permission to remove, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1464.
- Hague Conference—British Delegates, Names of, *Mar. 14,* 222.
- Jamaica Earthquake—Landing of American Armed Force, *Mar. 14,* 228.
- Macedonia
  - Budget, Particulars of, *Mar. 19,* 644; *Mar. 26,* 1639, 1640.
  - Reform proposals—Understanding as to Initiative of Projects, *Mar. 14,* 226, 227.
- Merchant Shipping—Funds Provided for Training in Foreign Countries, *Mar. 14,* 207.
- Mesopotamia—Concessions by the Porte, *Mar. 26,* 1642.
- Morocco Prisons, Condition of, *Mar. 26,* 1640.
- New Caledonia—Continuance as Penal Settlement, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1641.
- New Hebrides, Native Labour Recruitment for New Caledonian Mines, *Mar. 26,* 1637.
- Persia
  - British Legation, Protection of, *Mar. 22,* 1266; *Mar. 27,* 1802.
  - Mineral Oil Concession in, *Mar. 22,* 1265.
  - Yezd—Nationality of Murdered Parsee Merchant, *Mar. 18,* 432.
- Servian Tariff Arrangement — Views of British Colonies, *Mar. 14,* 224, 225.
- Siam—Treaty with France, Terms of, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1801.
- Trade Marks—Counterfeit of British Marks, Prosecutions for Abroad, Assistance rendered by Consuls, etc., *Mar. 25,* 1465.
- Turkey
  - Customs Duties, Increase in—Allocation of Proceeds, *Mar. 14,* 226; *Mar. 26,* 1640.
    - Conditions attached to, *Mar. 25,* 1466.

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*cont.*
- Turkey—*cont.*
  - Frontier Dispute with Persia—Progress of Negotiations, *Mar. 19,* 657; *Mar. 26,* 1639.
  - Salonika, Kidnapping of British Subject at, *Mar. 27,* 1802.
- United States
  - Commercial Treaty with—Operation of Most-Favoured-Nation Clause, *Mar. 19,* 658.
  - Municipal Borrowing in—Return as to Limits imposed by Law, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1801, 1802.
  - Shipping Trade between East and West Coasts, Reservation of, *Mar. 22,* 1266.
  - Tariff Relations with Canada, *Mar. 26,* 1643.
  - Trade Arrangements with Germany—Safeguarding British Interests, *Mar. 14,* 224.

Griffith, Mr. E. J. [Anglesey]
- Post Office
  - Mail Service, American—Decision as to Port of Arrival, *Mar. 25,* 1466.

Guest, Mr. J. C. [Cardiff District]
- Great Western, London, and North-Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 751–752.
- Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount Paid under, and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27,* 1850.

Guest, Keen, and Nettlefold, Messrs.
- Dismissal of Workmen in consequence of Votes given during Municipal Elections, Allegations as to.
  - *Q.* Colonel Herbert; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 27,* 1815, 1816.

Gulland, Mr. J. W. [Dumfries Burghs]
- Agriculture, Scientific Research Departmental Committee—Reason for exclusion of Scotland from Terms of Reference, *Mar. 27,* 1820.
- Fisheries, Scotland — Proof of Rights claimed in Salmon Rivers, *Mar. 25,* 1515.
- Indian Army Chaplains—Appointment of Presbyterians, *Mar. 26,* 1634.
- Juvenile Offenders in Scotland, Treatment of—Return proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1515.

Gurdon, Sir W. B. [Norfolk, N.]
- Bills, Tonnage Clauses in—Intention of Board of Trade, *Mar. 20–21,* 835.

Gurdon, Sir W. B.—*cont.*
- Harbour and Pilotage Dues, Legislative Proposals as to, *Mar. 20–21,* 835.
- Standing Committees
  - Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 20,* 921.
  - Manning of—Statistics as to, *Mar. 20,* 921.

Gwynn, Mr. [Galway]
- Education
  - Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to remedying and increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1414–1419.
  - Teachers, Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotions, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1415, 1416.
- Hibernian Academy
  - Commission Report and Recommendations, Decision as so, *Mar.13,* 77–79.
  - Control over by the Board of Agriculture, Objections to, *Mar. 13,* 77, 78.
  - Site of, Proposals as to Removal, etc., *Mar. 13,* 77.
- Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23,* 1417.
- Loughrea, Irish Interpreter, Vacancy, Date of filling, Remuneration offered, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1776.

Haddock, Mr. G. B. [Lancs., N. Lonsdale]
- Poor Law
  - Administration in London, Cost of, *Mar. 22,* 1295.
  - Relief Statistics for 1835, *Mar. 25,* 1466.
- Unemployed Grant of £200,000, Expenditure of, *Mar. 13,* 36.

Hague Conference
- British Delegates
  - Instructions to.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13,* 29; *Mar. 20–21,* 848.
  - Names of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14,* 222.
- Permanent Congress of Nations, Establishment as, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Alden; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26,* 1671 1672.
- Programme
  - *Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26,* 1672.
- Reduction in Armaments, Proposals for Discussion of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Byles; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18,* 462.
  - *Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Runciman *Mar. 25,* 1496.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*Secretary of State for War* [Haddington].
- Accounts Department
  - Changes in, Proposals as to, *Mar. 19,* 651.
  - Cost of Transfer of Members, etc., *Mar. 18,* 419, 420.
  - Emoluments and Promotion in, *Mar. 22,* 1286, 1287.
- Africa, East—Beira—Circumstances of Appointment of Brevet-Colonel A. J. Arnold, *Mar. 18,* 430.
- Africa, South, Garrison in
  - Refund to Messrs. Wilson and Worthington, *Mar. 14,* 206.
  - Standerton, Supply of Water to, *Mar. 14,* 206.
- Army (Annual) Bill, 1R., *Mar. 14,* 335; 2R., *Mar. 18,* 582, 593, 594, 595, 596; *Com., Mar. 21,* 1005, 1014, 1022, 1028, 1031, 1037, 1044, 1050, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1077, 1078, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1087, 1088, 1092, 1095, 1103, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1109, 1115, 1120, 1125, 1130, 1135, 1136, 1138, 1144, 1150, 1166, 1170, 1182, 1187, 1188, 1198; *Con., Mar. 25,* 1615, 1616.
  - Discussion, Alleged Burking of, by the Government, *Mar. 20,* 965.
  - Memorandum, Reason for withdrawing, *Mar. 20, 21,* 876.
- Artillery
  - Royal Garrison, First Scottish Sub-District—Order as to sewing-up of Soldiers' Trouser Pockets, *Mar. 18,* 454.
  - Strength in 1895 and 1905, *Mar. 13,* 24.
- Ballincollig Barracks, Removal of Cavalry from, *Mar. 14,* 214.
- Bentley Motor Train Fatality, Alleged Refusal of Military Doctor of Bordon Camp to Render Assistance, *Mar. 27,* 1792.
- Bradley, Company Quartermaster - Sergeant, Case of, *Mar. 19,* 653.
- Cadet Corps, Sum Voted for, *Mar. 26,* 1626.
- Cadets from Sandhurst, Reason for Delay in Gazetting, *Mar. 18,* 454.
- Cavalry
  - Brigade, Quartering in Scotland, proposed, *Mar. 18,* 451, 452.
  - Depots, Reviving System of, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 311.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 578, 579, 3R., *Mar. 20,* 965.
- Disbanded Line Battalions, Date of Formation of, *Mar. 13,* 25.

[*cont.*

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*cont.*

- Discharges, Number Purchased at a Cost of £10, during last Five Years, *Mar. 27*, 1793.
- Engineer Civil Staff, Decision as to Pay and Promotion of, *Mar. 20–21*, 843.
- Estimates, Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14*, 309.
- Flogging, New Regulations as to, *Mar. 20–21*, 839.
- Furniture, Barrack and Mess, Charge for Use of, *Mar. 18*, 452, 453.
- Garrisons in Gibraltar, Malta, and the Straits Settlements, Policy of Reducing, *Mar 14*, 307; *Mar. 18*, 578, 579.
- Imaal Camp, System of Supply of Hay to, *Mar. 18*, 430.
- India, Cavalry Drafts, System of Supplying, *Mar. 14*, 311.
- London, Defence of—Disposal of Sites, etc., *Mar. 25*, 1488.
- Malta Civil and Military Accountants, Emoluments of, *Mar. 18*, 420.
- Military Attachés to Foreign Courts, Language Qualifications of, *Mar. 18*, 424.
- Militia
  - Artillery Training Proposals, *Mar. 22*, 1288.
  - Clare Regiment, Training proposals for, *Mar. 22*, 1290.
  - Lieutenants-Colonel, further Employment of, *Mar. 14*, 214.
  - Officers—Proposals as to Full Dress Uniform, under New Scheme, *Mar. 27*, 1789.
  - Promotion from the Ranks, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 309.
- Order of 11th March, Effect of, *Mar. 19*, 651.
- Ordnance Corps—Appointment of Warrant Officers, *Mar. 26*, 1632.
- Ordnance Factories, Wages Paid in, *Mar. 13*, 23.
- Pension for Satisfactory Service which has not earned a Pension, Allowance for, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1305.
- Promotions—Recommendations of Board of Selection, Power of Secretary of State to Veto, *Mar. 14*, 310.
- Provost Marshall, Powers of, and Qualifications for Office of Assistant, *Mar. 25*, 1488, 1489.
- Reserve
  - Infantry of the Line, Strength of, *Mar. 25*, 1485.
  - Schedule D., Changes proposed in Terms of Service. *Mar. 20–21*. 839.
  - Strength of—Basis of Calculation, *Mar. 13*, 25.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*cont.*

- Second Line or Territorial Force
  - Civil Servants, Eligibility of, *Mar. 13*, *24*; *Mar. 14*, 203.
  - Divisional Generals, Appointment of, *Mar. 26*, 1625.
  - Irish Recruits, proposals as to, *Mar, 27*, 1795.
  - Musketry Course for, *Mar. 14*, 205.
  - Pay and Allowances, *Mar. 20–21*, 841, 842.
  - Uniform, Provision of, *Mar. 20–21*, 842; *Mar. 25*, 1485, 1487.
- Seditious Handbills against Recruiting in Dublin, *Mar. 14*, 205.
- Shoebury Foreshores, Bylaws for Regulating User of, *Mar. 25*, 1488.
- Signalling Regulations, Date of Issue of, *Mar. 22*, 1288.
- Soldiers
  - Civil Employment on Discharge
    - Rate of Wages paid by Messrs. Harrod, *Mar. 14*, 204; *Mar. 20–21*, 841.
    - Wages paid to Men with Pensions, *Mar. 20–21*, 841.
  - Consumptive, Treatment of, on Discharge, *Mar. 26*, 1633.
  - Rations, Changes in, *Mar. 18*, 453. 454.
  - Song Book for, Proposals for Compiling, *Mar. 14*, 203.
- Strength, Statistics as to, *Mar. 25*, 1489.
- Terms of Service—Seven and Five Years' System, Effect of, on Reserve, *Mar. 18*, 424.
- Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill
  - Clause 28, 3 (c) Transfer of Property under, *Mar. 18*, 423.
  - Details, Consulting Committee as to, proposed, *Mar. 20–21*, 842.
  - Enactments Adapted or Applied by—Return proposed, *Mar. 18*, 455.
  - Ireland, Application to, *Mar. 14*, 204.
  - Part III.—Application to Reserve, *Mar. 22*, 1304.
  - Rifle Ranges, Provision of, *Mar. 22*, 1304.
  - Second Reading, Date of Taking, *Mar. 14*, 206.
- Training Arrangements for 3rd West Riding and 3rd York and Lancaster Regiments, *Mar. 22*, 1304.
- Uniforms, Cost of Supplying 300,000 Men with, *Mar. 27*, 1795.
- Up-keep, Irish Contribution to, and Total Value of Contracts Placed in Ireland, *Mar. 27*, 1790.

[*cont.*

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*cont.*

- Volunteers
  - Adjutants—Number Holding Temporary Appointments, *Mar. 20–21,* 839.
  - Armament—Progress made with Conversion of 15-Pounders, *Mar. 18,* 423.
  - Bandmaster, *Status* of, *Mar. 19,* 650.
  - Effect of New Scheme on Service of, *Mar. 20–21,* 840.
  - Financial Liabilities of Officers, *Mar. 27,* 1790.
  - Loans for Drill Halls, etc.—Transfer of Mortgages, *Mar. 22,* 1291.
- War Office
  - Esher, Lord
    - Attendances and Functions of, *Mar. 27,* 1794.
    - Position and Services of, *Mar. 25,* 1487–1488.
  - Forage Contracts, Information as to, *Mar. 26,* 1633, 1634.
  - Harness Contract placed with Messrs. Jenkinson—Wages earned, etc., *Mar. 22,* 1303.
  - Surveyors' Salaries, Rate of, Compared with those in other Public Departments, *Mar. 27,* 1790.
- Woolwich Arsenal.
  - Discharges, Statistics as to, *Mar. 22,* 1289.
  - Piece work, Grievances as to Price Fixing for, *Mar. 27,* 1793, 1794.
- Yeomanry Pay and Allowances—Granting Ration Allowance, proposed, *Mar. 22,* 1289.

Halpin, Mr. J. [Clare, W.]

- Dublin Science College, Materials used for, *Mar. 26,* 1671.
- Milan Exhibition Diplomas, etc., Cause for Delay in Presenting, *Mar. 19,* 669.
- Militia—Training Proposals for Clare Regiment, *Mar. 22,* 1290.
- Vandeleur Estate Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of, *Mar. 19,* 674, 675.
- Works Board Loan to Conor Haugh, Information as to, *Mar. 19,* 678.

Hamilton, Marquess of [Londonderry]

- Downings Bay Shelter Pier, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14,* 199.

Hamilton of Dalzell, Lord

- Crofting Counties—Return as to Population in, *Mar. 18,* 410.

Hammond, Mr. J. [Carlow]

- Irish Education Act 1892, Disposal of Fines under, *Mar. 18,* 443.

Hampton Court

- Houses in the Home Park, Erection of—Wages paid by Contractor.
  - *Q.* Mr. W. T. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 15,* 341.

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. L.—*First Commissioner of Works* [Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale]

- Africa—Volunteer Reserves in British Protectorates, *Mar. 26,* 1634.
- Africa, East, Steamship Communication with, *Mar. 26,* 1635.
- All Night Sitting, Remuneration of Attendants for Duty during, *Mar. 25,* 1513.
- Ancient Monuments, Maintenance and Protection of—Reason for Increase in Estimates, *Mar. 14,* 247.
- British Museum Reading Room, closing of —Accommodation for Readers, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1655.
- Canada—British Immigrants at Cape Breton, Allegations as to misleading Statements by Emigration Agency, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1635.
- Carnarvon Castle, Sum allotted for Maintenance and Repair of, *Mar. 20–21,* 856.
- Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Allocation of Profit from, etc., *Mar. 25,* 1492.
- China—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Terms of Sleeper Contract, *Mar. 27,* 1800.
- Colonial Conference, 1907, Preference, Amendment of Shipping Laws to effect proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1492.
- Colonial Office
  - Affairs of Western Pacific, Tabling Despatch as to proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1493.
  - Despatch of 20th April, 1906—Matters mentioned regarding Western Pacific, *Mar. 26,* 1638
- Duke of York's School Site, Disposal of. *Mar. 18,* 434.
- Duke of York's Steps—Necessity for relaying Asphalte on Footway leading to Storey's Gate, *Mar. 19,* 668.
- Fiji Sugar Cane Fields, Health of Natives employed in, *Mar. 26,* 1636.
- Grand Committee, Provision of suitable Rooms for, *Mar. 25,* 1513.
- Hampton Court, Houses in the Home Park, Erection of — Wages paid by Contractor, *Mar. 15,* 341.
- House of Lords Lift Use made of, Wages of Attendant, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1815.
- Jamaica
  - Amount subscribed by, towards expense of War with France, *Mar. 25,* 1491.
  - Grant in 1871, Purpose of, *Mar. 25,* 1491.

[*cont.*

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. L.—*cont.*
- Kensington Gardens—Trees planted, lopped and cut down during present Year, etc., *Mar. 19*, 667.
- Natal
  - Dinizulu's Action against his late Secretary, Reason for Adjournment of, *Mar. 25*, 1493.
  - Indians engaged to work on Benguelea Railway, Reason for Detention of, *Mar. 25*, 1495.
- New Hebrides, Native Fitness for Work, *Mar. 26*, 1636.
- Nigeria, Northern Report—on Railway Extension, *Mar. 26*, 1638, 1639.
- St. Helena, Distress in, Proposals for relieving, *Mar. 27*, 1801.
- Stirling Castle, Sum allotted for Repair and Maintenance of, *Mar. 20–21*, 856.
- Transvaal
  - Chinese Labour
    - Policy of the Transvaal Government, *Mar. 25*, 1494.
    - Repatriation Measures taken for, by Mine Owners, *Mar. 25*, 1493.
  - Mines—Value of Drill, *Mar. 25*, 1493.
  - Native Labour, Facilities for Recruitment of, *Mar. 25*, 1494.
  - Parliament—Salaries paid to Ministers, *Mar. 26*, 1637, 1638.
- Trinidad
  - Customs Commission, Constitution of, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1800.
  - Labourers in, Conditions of Employment, Number Imported, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1797–1799.

Hardie, Mr. J. K. [Merthyr Tydvil]
- Lagos Town Improvement Scheme—Compensation Paid to Hausas, *Mar. 19*, 656, 657.
- Leicester, Unemployment in, Causes of and Measures taken to Relieve, *Mar. 27*, 1855–1857.
- London County Council, Loans, Particulars as to, *Mar. 18*, 470.
- Newport, Unemployed in—Refusal of Grant by Local Government Board, *Mar. 27*, 1859.
- Sprouston—Allegations Against Mr. J. Avery, etc., *Mar. 22*, 1272.
- Unemployed
  - Causes of Unemployment, *Mar. 27*, 1855–1857.
  - Grant of £200,000, Proposals for Renewing, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
  - Women, Reason for withholding Assistance to, *Mar. 27*, 1853.
- Unemployed Workmen Act, Administration, Failure of, *Mar. 27*, 1853–1860.
- Washburn Valley Afforestation Scheme—Conditions of Employment of Men, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1857, 1858.

Hardinge, Viscount.
- Army, Territorial, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1228–1232.
- Militia
  - Recruiting for the Line through, proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1238.
  - Reform proposals, *Mar. 21*, 1230–1232.

Hardy, Mr. L. [Kent, Ashford]
- Standing Committees
  - Bills having Passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than two-thirds to be sent to Grand Committee, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1600.
  - Bills the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1613.
  - Business Committees consisting of Speaker and six other Members, to be appointed to consider all Bills, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1578–1580.
  - Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 922–927.
  - Motion for Referring Bills to, proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1683.
  - Provision of Suitable Rooms for, *Mar. 25*, 1513.
  - Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1593.

Harlech Estate
- Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Alice Reilly. *Q.* Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1667.

Harmsworth, Mr. C. B. [Worcester, Droitwich
- Agriculture Board Expenditure—Estimate for 1907–8, *Mar. 18*, 429.
- Small Holdings, Committee Report on—Publication of Replies to Circular Letter, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1468
- Worcestershire County Council Grants, Delay in Paying, *Mar 25*, 1514.

Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B. [Yorks., E. R., Howdenshire]
- Sugar Duty, Abolition of, *Mar. 18*, 438.

Hart-Davies, Mr. T. [Hackney, N.]
- Indian Civil Service—Contributions by Native Officials to Family Pension Funds, *Mar. 18*, 439.
- Merchant Vessels, Compulsory Carrying of Rocket Apparatus by, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 647.
- Navy
  - Libraries—Books, etc., Ordered for, in 1906, *Mar. 27*, 1769.
  - Supplementary Officers, Duties of, *Mar. 18*, 448.

Harwood, Mr. G. [Bolton]
- Aliens—Case of S. Bernstein, *Mar. 14,* 192.
- Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R. *Mar. 15,* 388.
- Mail Service Between Hong-Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount Paid under and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27,* 1846.

Haslam, Mr. L. [Monmouth Boroughs]
- Merchant Shipping
  - Distribution of Oil on Stormy Water—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 14,* 209.
  - Foreign Countries—Funds Provided for Training of Officers and Seamen, *Mar. 14,* 207.
  - Officers and Seamen, Schemes for Training, *Mar. 14,* 237.
- Metric System, Introducing into Government Departments proposed, *Mar. 19,* 647.
- Norwood Poor Law School—Number of Children Suffering from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough, *Mar. 27,* 1811.
- Poor Law
  - Children—Boarding-out with Institutions such as Dr. Barnardo's Homes, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1811, 1812.
  - Cost of, in London and Provinces, *Mar. 20–21,* 837.
- Unemployed Workmen Act, Administration of, *Mar. 27,* 1864.

Haworth, Mr. A. A. [Manchester, S.]
- Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22,* 1332–1340.

Hay, Mr. C. G. D. [Shoreditch, Hoxton]
- Army (Annual) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 592, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1008, 1009, 1021, 1146, 1152, 1198.
- Metropolitan Water Board Accounts, Order as to, *Mar. 19,* 661.
- Police Court Fees, Fines, etc., Due to Local Authorities—Periodical Statement proposed, *Mar. 19,* 659.
- Unemployed Distress Committees' Accounts, Order to Regulate, *Mar. 19,* 661.

Hayden, Mr. J. P. [Roscommon, S.]
- Athlone Grass Farms Offered for Sale, *Mar. 25,* 1479.
- Criminal Procedure—Case of Finn *v.* Campbell, *Mar. 14,* 249.
- Drum—Sale of Untenanted Land belonging to Sir H. Burke, *Mar. 25,* 1477.
- Education Grant for New Schools, proposal as to, *Mar. 25,* 1521.
- Goodall Estate, Sale proposals for, *Mar. 13,* 49.
- Judges, Powers Vested in by Commission, *Mar. 26,* 1670, 1671.

Hayden, Mr. J. P.—*cont.*
- Land Purchase, Loans by Works Board, Regulations as to, *Mar. 14,* 250.
- Pakenham-Mahon Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25,* 1518.
- Roscommon
  - Assizes—Direction to Crown Solicitor by Mr. Justice Kenny, *Mar. 18,* 486; *Mar. 19,* 674.
  - Condition of—Report of Police, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1669.
  - Land Commission Sittings, Date of Holding, *Mar. 18,* 440.
- Scott and Cleaver Estate, Purchase proposals for, *Mar. 27,* 1774.
- Suffolk, West, Crime in, *Mar. 26,* 1648.

Hayes Estate
- Reinstatement Claim of R. Cooke.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. MacVeigh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25,* 1461.
- Sale proposals for—Cause of Delay, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. MacVeigh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 427.

Hazel, Dr. A. E. W. [West Bromwich]
- Roman Catholic University, Legislative proposals for, *Mar. 22,* 1285.

Healy, Mr. T. M. [Louth, N.]
- Civil Service Second Division Clerks—Salary on Promotion, *Mar. 22,* 1292.
- Education
  - "Christian Brothers," Work of, *Mar. 23,* 1405.
  - Development Fund, Amount Allocated from, *Mar. 23,* 1408.
  - National Commissioners, Proceedings of, Lack of Information as to, *Mar. 23,* 1407.
  - Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1403–1409.
  - Teachers, Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1406.

Heaton, Mr. J. H. [Canterbury]
- Canada, Postal Rates on Newspapers and Periodicals, Arrangements as to, *Mar. 27,* 1812.
- Colour Blindness, Efficacy of Board of Trade Tests for, *Mar. 27,* 1786.

Helme, Mr. N. W. [Lancashire, N., Lancaster]
- Fisheries Inquiry, Scope of, *Mar. 26,* 1629.

Helmsley, Lord [Yorkshire, N. R., Thirsk]
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1007, 1010, 1025, 1041, 1044, 1045, 1064, 1072, 1073, 1075, 1085, 1087, 1144.
- Navy, Explosives,—Decision as to use of Mercuric Chloride, *Mar. 25,* 1484.
- Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19,* 743–744.

[*cont.*

Helmsley, Lord—*cont.*
  Standing Committees, Referring Bills to
    Bills, the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1609.
    Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1715.
    Motion for Referring Bills to, proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1697.
    Withdrawal from General Discussion by the House, Objections to, *Mar. 26*, 1689, 1690.

Hemmerde, Mr. [Denbighshire]
  Land Values, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1748–1750.
  Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1748–1750.
  Worcester Parliamentary Election Petition—Tabling Report of Proceedings, *Mar. 27*, 1815.

Henderson, Mr. A. [Durham, Barnard Castle]
  Blocking Motions and Bills put on Order Paper to prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, *Mar. 27*, 1886.
  Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 256.
  Truck Acts, Alleged Contravention of, by Charitable Institutions, *Mar. 14*, 231.
  Wages, Inquiry, Scope of, *Mar. 14*, 236.

Henderson, Mr. J. McD. [Aberdeenshire, W.]
  Epping Tithe Rent Charge Redemption, Cause for Delay in dealing with, *Mar 26*, 1657.
  Married Women's Property Act Amending Bill, Proposals for Introducing, *Mar. 14*, 244.
  Separation Orders made by Magistrates and Judges during 1905–6, *Mar. 18*, 467.

Heneage, Lord
  Agriculture Holdings Act, 1906—Invalidation of Agreements—Action of certain Landlords in issuing Notices to Tenants, etc, *Mar. 14*, 186.

Henry, Mr. C. S. [Shropshire, Wellington]
  Magistrates' Clerks Participating in Assize Prosecutions, Objections to, *Mar. 18*, 477.

Herbert, Colonel [Monmouthshire, S.]
  Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, Messrs.—Dismissal of Workmen in Consequence of Votes given during Municipal Elections, *Mar. 27*, 1815.

Herbert, Mr. T. A. [Buckinghamshire Wycombe]
  Bankruptcy Law—Cases of Button *ex parte* Hairside, *Mar. 19*, 641.
  Congo Free State, Belgian Commission—Date of Presenting Report, *Mar. 15*, 339.
  Fontevrault Abbey, English Royal Personages Interred in—Application to French Government for Permission to Remove, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1464.
  Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1845.

Hervey, Captain F. W. F. [Bury St. Edmunds]
  Navy
    Casualties to Ships—Statistics for 1905–6 and Causes of, *Mar. 27*, 1782.
    Personnel, Reductions in, *Mar. 14*, 262.
    Shipwrights and Coopers, Reason for Reduction in Number of, *Mar. 14*, 262, 263.
  Tonlagee—Case of Mr. Beirne, *Mar. 18*, 425.

Hibernian Academy, Royal
  See under Ireland.

Hills, Mr. J. W. [Durham]
  Colonial Conference, 1907—Discussion of Preferential Tariffs, *Mar. 22*, 1269.
  Imports, Duties on, Extension of System, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1746–1748.
  Income Tax, Incidence of, *Mar. 26*, 1746.
  Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1745–1748.

Historical Manuscripts
  Irish Collections in course of Publication, etc., Information as to.
    Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 27*, 1779.

Hobart, Sir R. [Hants, New Forest]
  Esher, Lord, Position and Services of, *Mar. 25*, 1487.
  New Forest—Turbary Rights of Mr. H. Taylor, *Mar. 18*, 435.

Hobhouse, Mr. C. E. H.—*Under-Secretary for India* [Bristol, E.]
  Abazai Garrison, Composition of, *Mar. 27*, 1797.
  Allahabad—Case of Mr. Jotindranath Sen, *Mar. 20, 21*, 843.

[*cont.*

Hobhouse, Mr. C. E. H.—*cont.*

Arbuthnot & Co., Messrs., Affairs of, *Mar. 13*, 26.

Army Chaplains, Presbyterian, Appointment of, *Mar. 26*, 1634.

Bengal—Circumstances of Murder of Mr. Bloomfield, *Mar. 20–21*, 843, 844.

Bird Protection, Proposals as to, *Mar. 27*, 1796.

Burma Railway Extension towards Kunlon, Information as to, *Mar. 25*, 1490.

Crops, Damage done to, by Wild Animals, Revision of Scale of Rewards, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1796.

Indo-Chinese Railway Survey Expenditure, *Mar. 27*, 1797.

Lahore—Sentence on Proprietor and Editor of *Panjabee*, *Mar. 13*, 26, 27.

Strategic Railways, Expenditure on, *Mar. 27*, 1796.

Hogan, Mr. M. [Tipperary, N.]

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 126–128.

Labourers Acts (Ireland), Labourers residing in Urban District, and Working in Rural District, Application to, *Mar. 25*, 1463.

Hollesley Bay

Labour Colony at, Working of Experiment.
Os. Mr. Masterman, *Mar. 27*, 1866; Mr. Burns, 1874; Mr. Long, 1882.

Home Office

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.
Under-Secretary—Mr. H. Samuel.

Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Home Rule

See under Ireland.

Honduras

Alien Law of Republic—Translation Presented, *Mar. 14*, 163, 189.

Hooper, Mr. A. G. [Dudley]

Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 348, 370.

Hope, Mr. W. H. B. [Somerset, N.]

Training College Hostels, Grant for, *Mar. 18*, 436.

Hospitals, Ireland

Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

House of Commons

See under Parliament.

House of Lords

See under Parliament.

Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland)

Legislation to extend Act of 1906 to Urban Labourers, proposed.
Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 213.

Loans to Urban Councils proposed.
Q. Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 678.

Hudson, Mr. W. [Newcastle-on-Tyne]

Railway Hours of Labour—Form of Returns and Information given, *Mar. 14*, 239.

Hudson Estate

Reinstatement Claims of Evicted Tenants.
Q. Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 444.

Hull

Juvenile Offenders, Method of dealing with.
Q. Mr. Clynes; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 22*, 1277.
Q. Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1506.

Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill

c. Rep.* *Mar. 20*, 818.

Report of Board of Trade ordered, *Mar. 13*, 10; Presented, 159.

Humber Conservancy Bill

l. Rep.* *Mar. 19*, 597.

Hunt, Mr. R. [Shropshire, Ludlow]

Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1117.

Magistrates, Competence of, to Administer the Law after Prosecution for Refusal to pay Rates—Towcester Case, *Mar. 20–21*, 875.

Navy

Plumbers and Blacksmiths, Rate of Wage paid to, while at Sea, *Mar. 14*, 289.

Strength of, *Mar. 14*, 289.

Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity, Readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1761, 1762

Unemployment, causes of, *Mar. 27*, 1867.

Imaal Camp

See under Army.

Imports and Exports

See Exports and Imports.

Inchigeela

Letter Robbery at, Efforts made to trace Offenders.
Qs. Mr. J. F. Mason, Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1824.

Income Tax

Bank Loans, Payment on.
Q. Mr. Vivian; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 26*, 1645, 1646.

[*cont.*

Income Tax—*cont.*
- Collection
  - Assimilating English and Scotch Systems, proposed. *Qs.* Mr. A. Cross, Mr. Younger; *As.* Mr Asquith, *Mar. 14*, 229.
  - Issue of Final Notices in Ireland. *Q.* Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 19*, 658.
  - Procedure for Issuing Final Notices in England and Scotland. *Qs.* Mr. A. Cross; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 18*, 463, 464.
- Cottage Property, Assessment of. *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25*, 1471.
- Easter Offerings, Charge on—Decision in Case of Cooper *v.* Blakiston. *Q.* Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 13*, 29, 30.
- Incidence of. *Os.* Mr. C. Money, *Mar. 26*, 1738, 1741, 1742; Mr. Hills, 1746.
- Mining Dividends, Charge on. *Q.* Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 20–21*, 852.
- Non-Payment in 1905–6, Particulars as to. *Q.* Mr. C. E. Price; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 14*, 228.
- Refund—Information given by Surveyors. *Q.* Mr. G. White; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 22*, 1277, 1278.

India
- Abazai Garrison, Composition of. *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Mar. 27*, 1797.
- Administration—Speech by Sir A. Fraser. *Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 14*, 194.
- Allahabad—Case of Mr. Jotindranath, Sen. *Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Mar. 20–21*, 843.
- Arbuthnot & Co., Messrs., Inquiry into Affairs of. *Q.* Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Mar. 13*, 25, 26.
- Army
  - Cavalry Drafts, System of Supplying. *O.* Viscount Valentia, *Mar. 14*, 302; Mr. Haldane, 311.
  - Chaplains—Regulations as to appointment of Presbyterians. *Q.* Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Mar. 26*, 1634.
  - Military Service Family Pension Fund, Valuation of. *Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 20–21*, 838.
  - Mill, Major, Compassionate Allowance to Daughter of, proposed. *Q.* Sir E. Cornwall; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 25*, 1474, 1475.

India—*cont.*
- Assam—Education of Coolie Children. *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 14*, 210.
- Bengal
  - Bloomfield, Mr., Circumstances of Murder of. *Qs.* Mr. Rees, Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Mar. 20–21*, 843, 844.
  - Boycott of British Goods, Effect of. *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 25*, 1472.
  - Chowkidari Tax, Decision as to. *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 14*, 210, 211.
  - Excise Bill, Re-introduction of, proposed. *Q.* Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19*, 654.
- Bird Protection in—Legislative Proposals as to. *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Mar. 27*, 1795, 1796.
- Bombay Ryots evicted for non-payment of Land Revenue (1899–1904). *Q.* Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Morley, *Mar. 22*, 1300.
- Budget, Date of taking. *Q.* Mr. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19*, 642.
- Civil Service
  - Family Pension Fund, Valuation of. *Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 25*, 1473.
  - Natives—Rule as to Contributions to Family Pension Funds. *Q.* Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 18*, 439.
- Comilla Disturbance, Information as to. *Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19*, 653, 654.
- Co-operative Credit Societies—Return Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1452.
- Crops, Damage done to by Wild Animals—Revision of Scale of Rewards for Destruction of Animals, proposed. *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Mar. 27*, 1796.
- Dacca, Nawab of—Embarrassed Condition of Estate and Proposals as to Assistance. *Q.* Mr. C. J. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 14*, 195.
- *Eastern Bengal and Assam Era*, Publication of Inflammatory Matter in—Measures proposed to Prevent, etc. *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 22*, 1280.
- Haffkine, Dr. Appointment of—Value of Prophylactic against Plague, etc. *Q.* Sir W. J. Collins; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19*, 644.

[*cont.*

India—*cont.*

Lahore—Sentence on Proprietor and Editor of *Panjabee.*
Qs. Mr. Dolan, Mr. Rees, Sir H. Cotton; *As.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Mar. 13,* 26, 27.

Moplah Rifles—Decision as to Disbandment.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 25,* 1472.

Mount Everest, Ascent of—Reason for refusal of Facilities to Travellers.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 22,* 1279.

National Congress, Tabling Resolutions, proposed.
Qs. Sir H. Cotton; *As.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19,* 655.

Punjab—Return as to Deaths from Tetanus ordered, *Mar. 26,* 1622.

Railways

Inquiry, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Bryce *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 26,* 1623, 1624.

Rolling Stock, Inadequacy of.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr.. Morley, *Mar. 14,* 194.

Strategic Railways, Expenditure on.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Mar. 27,* 1796.

India Office

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Under-Secretary—Mr. C. E. H. Hobhouse.

Deputations as to certain Grievances, Decision as to receiving, etc.
Q. Mr. C. J. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 14,* 194, 195.

Indigo

Synthetic, Cost of Manufacturing, etc.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 18,* 440.

Ingham Estate

Reinstatement Claim of P. McConnell.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 200.

Inland Revenue

Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 70.

Innellan Pier

Parcel Hampers, Post Office Charges on.
Q. Mr. Lamont; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 26,* 1624.

Innishlyre

Harbour Construction, Proposals as to.
Qs. Dr. Ambrose; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 444–446.

Ireland

Chief Secretary—Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.

Lord-Lieutenant—Earl of Aberdeen.

Attorney-General—Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.

Solicitor-General—Mr. R. Barry.

[*For* particular Places, Estates, etc., *see their names.*]

Administration, Bringing of Wrongdoers to Justice, Remarks of Mr. Justice Ross as to Laxity in.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 201.

Agrarian Crime—Statistics 1886–1906.
Os. Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 13,* 144, 145; Mr. C. Craig, 146–150.
Q. Mr. W. Long; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 826, 828.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, *see that title.*

Boycotting and Intimidation, Prevalence of.
Qs. Mr. Gordon, *Mar. 13,* 136–141; *A.* Mr. Cherry, 145, 146.

Cases of, on 1st instant.
Q. Mr. W. Long; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 827.

Chief Secretary

Offices, Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Sum Voted for Travelling Expenses (1907–8).
Q. Major Coates; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 442.

Congested Districts—Report of Commissioners Presented, *Mar. 20,* 821; *Mar. 21,* 1206.

Constabulary, Royal Irish, *see that title.*

Co-operative Banks—Return as to Number, etc., of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar 27,* 1773, 1774.

Crimelessness of, Alleged.
Os. Mr. Nolan, *Mar. 13,* 129; Mr. Gordon, 134; Mr. Cherry, 145; Mr. C. Craig, 147–150.

Criminal Law and Procedure Act, *see that title.*

Drainage, Arterial, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. John O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 213.

Drunkenness, Arrests for, Return Presented, *Mar. 13,* 10.

Education, *see that title.*

Evictions

Reinstatement Claims, Number of, Cause for Eviction, etc.,
Qs. Captain Craig; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 45, 46; *Mar. 25,* 1476.

Sons of Deceased Evicted Tenant, Procedure as to Reinstatement of.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13.* 46.

[*cont.*

Ireland—*cont.*

Farmers, Facilities for Loans to, for Improving Dwellings, proposed.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 198.

Government Departments—Total Cost for 1905 and 1906.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1777.

Hall-marking of Silver, Charge for.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 869, 870.

Hibernian Academy

Commission Report

Opportunity for Discussion.
Os. Mr. Boland, *Mar. 13*, 70.

Recommendations, Decision as to.
Os. Mr. Boland, *Mar. 13*, 70, 73–77; Mr. Gwynn, 77–79; Mr. Runciman, 79–81; Sir T. Esmonde, 81; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 85.

Control over, by the Board of Agriculture, Objections to.
Os. Mr. Boland, *Mar. 13*, 74; Mr. Gwynn, 77, 78; Sir T. Esmonde, 81; Mr. Dillon, 83–85.

Grant to.
Os. Mr. Boland, *Mar. 13*, 71, 73; Mr. Runciman, 79; Sir T. Esmonde, 82.

Life School, Amalgamation of, with that of Board of Agriculture, proposed.
Os. Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 80.

Site of, Proposals as to Removal, etc.
Os. Mr. Boland, *Mar. 13*, 71, 72; Mr. Gwynn, 77; Mr. Runciman, 81.

Home Rule—Policy of Establishing in Ireland a Freely Elected Parliament and Executive Responsible to it—Attitude of the Government.
Os. Earl of Denbigh, *Mar. 20*, 784–795; Earl of Crewe, 795–800; Marquess of Londonderry, 800–804; Lord Loreburn, 804–810; Marquess of Lansdowne, 810–816.

Irish Language, *see that title.*

Labourers Acts and Cottages, *see title* Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

Land Commission, Land Judges Court, Land Purchase, *see those titles.*

Land Valuation, etc., Officials Engaged in—System of making Appointments.
Qs. Mr. Ginnell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 44, 45.

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Law Courts, *see that title.*

Lord Lieutenant's Household, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Ireland—*cont.*

Persons Receiving Police Protection on, 1st March.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 10, 11.
Q. Mr. W. Long; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 826.

Circumstances of Granting Protection.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 865.

Petty Session Courts—Instructions as to Good Friday Sittings.
Q. Mr. Jordan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1778.

Population, Estimated, in 1895–6 and 1905–6.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 27*, 1780.

Queen's Colleges, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Roman Catholic University—Legislative proposals.
Q. Dr. Hazel; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1285.

Solicitors — Discontinuance of Annual Licence Fee, proposed.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 25*, 1471, 1472.

United Irish League, Boycotting and Intimidation by.
Os. Mr. Gordon, *Mar. 13*, 138, 139.

Valuation and Boundary Survey, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Works Board

Haugh, Conor, Loan to and Amount Remaining Unpaid by.
Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 678.

Late Arrival, Procedure in Indicating.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 19.

Luncheon Interval of Staff.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 15*, 340.

New Year's Day, Arrangements as to.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 646.

Second Division Clerks—Promotion and Increments.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 831.

Works Office—Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Work and Buildings, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Irish Education Act, 1892

Disposal of Fines under.
Q. Mr. Hammond; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 443.

Irish Language
Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for.
Qs. Mr. John O'Connor, *Mar. 23*, 1388–1391; Mr. Murphy, 1394; Sir T. Esmonde, 1399; Mr. Long, 1411, 1412; Mr. Gwynn, 1417; Mr. Birrell, 1432–1435; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1445.

Rule as to Appointment of Teachers in Irish-speaking Districts.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 195, 196.

Irish Tobacco Bill
c. 2R.* *Mar. 25*, 1616.

Iron and Steel
Statistics as to Export and Import (1900–5).
Qs. Mr. J. A. Chamberlain; *As.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25*, 1511.

Jacoby, Sir J. A. [Derbyshire, Mid.]
All Night Sittings, Pay of Employees during, *Mar. 26*, 1659.

Jamaica
Amount Subscribed by, towards Expenses of War with France.
Q. Mr. H. Cox; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1491.

Earthquake

American Armed Force, Landing of.
Qs. Mr. J. Collings; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 227, 228.

Grant to Facilitate Re-building, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 431.

Grant for Relief of Distress, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 25*, 1523.

Portuguese Chamber of Deputies, Expression of Condolence from, Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1449.

School Buildings, Condition of since Earthquake, Proposals as to Reopening, etc.
Q. Mr. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 27*, 1778, 1779.

Tabling Papers, Proposals for.
Qs. Mr. J. Collings; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 14*, 219, 220.

Grant in 1781, Purpose of.
Qs. Mr. H. Cox; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1490, 1491.

James of Hereford, Lord
County Courts Bill, 2R. *Mar. 14*, 179.

Jardine, Sir J. [Roxburgh]
Agriculture Board—Value of Experiments of Mr. R. H. Elliot, etc., *Mar. 19*, 672.
Fisheries—Riparian Rights in certain Scottish Rivers, *Mar. 19*, 673, 674.
Tweed River Fisheries—Legality of Claims to Exclusive Rights, *Mar. 13*, 41.

Jenkins, Mr. J. [Chatham]
Bristol Corporation Bill, 2R. *Mar. 13*, 8.
Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 752–753.
Kent Education Committee—Regulations for Pupil Teachers, *Mar. 27*, 1789.

Jones, Mr. L. [Westmoreland, Appleby]
Consolidated Fund Appropriation Act, 1905, Powers of Treasury under Section 5, *Mar. 25*, 1503.
Liquor Traffic
Licensing Bill, Proposals for, *Mar. 25*, 1522, 1523.
Women's Franchise, Motion for, Effect on, of Proposal to Introduce Bill on same Subject, *Mar. 25*, 1525.

Jones, Sir D. B. [Swansea District]
Africa, East—Beira—Circumstances of Appointment of Brevet-Colonel A. J. Arnold, *Mar. 18*, 430.
Ecclesiastical Disorders—Illegal Practices at Broadstairs and Tunbridge Wells, *Mar. 14*, 243.

Jordan, Mr. J. [Fermanagh, S.]
Petty Session Courts—Instructions as to Good Friday Sittings, *Mar. 27*, 1778.

Jowett, Mr. F. W. [Bradford, W.]
Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill, Medical Inspection, Provisions for, *Mar. 18*, 421.
Potteries, Increase of Lead Poisoning in—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1298.
Standing Committees, Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise Ordered, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 928–930.

Joyce, Mr. M. [Limerick]
Judges, Powers vested in, by Commission, *Mar. 26*, 1670.

Judges
Allowances on Circuit.
Qs. Mr. Morton, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18*, 466.
Q. Mr. Morton, Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1503, 1504.
Ireland—Powers vested in by Commission.
Qs. Mr. Hayden, Mr. Joyce, Mr. J. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1670, 1671.

Judicature Bill
l. 2R. *Mar. 14*, 180.
Rep. Mar. 18*, 410.

Juvenile Offenders
Scotland, Treatment in—Return proposed. *Q.* Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 25*, 1515.
Treatment of—Return for England and Wales (October - December 1906), Ordered, *Mar. 14*, 189.

Kavanagh Estate
Existing Tenants' Interest, Power as to Purchase of. *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1476.

Kearley, Mr. H. E.—*Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade* [Devonport]
Aberdeen, Stranding of Vessels—Proposals as to Inquiries, *Mar. 25*, 1469.
Aliens — Bankruptcy Statistics for last five years, *Mar. 25*, 1510.
Arran Island—Clanchland Point, Erection of Light on, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1468.
"Berlin," Wreck of—Measures to improve Entrances to Continental Harbours proposed, *Mar. 19*, 666.
Bristol Trams—By-Laws as to Miners, *Mar. 14*, 239.
Dover Harbour, Poll-tax on Passengers, Proposal for Raising, *Mar. 25*, 1512.
Elliot Junction Railway Accident—Penalty to be imposed on Company for Lax State of Affairs, *Mar. 19*, 666.
Great Western, London and North Western and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R. *Mar. 19*, 753–755.
Iron and Steel — Statistics as to Exports and Imports (1900–5), *Mar. 25*, 1511.
London Municipal Society, Subscription to, from London and North Western Railway, *Mar. 14*, 238.
Merchant Shipping
  Oil, Distribution of, on Stormy Water—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 14*, 209.
  Rocket Apparatus, Compulsory carrying of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 647.
  Training of Officers and Seamen, Schemes for, *Mar. 14*, 238.
Metric System—Introducing into Government Departments, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 647.
Newbury Railway Station, Necessity for improving, *Mar. 25*, 1510.
Patent Law Amendment Bill, Introduction, Date of, *Mar. 14*, 237.

Kearley, Mr. H. E.—*cont.*
Railways
  Baker Street and Waterloo Trains, Overcrowding in, *Mar. 19*, 648.
  Clerks, Extension of Hours Act to, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 237.
  Combination of Companies, Development of, Tabling Correspondence, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1511.
  Hours of Labour, Returns, Form of and Information given in, *Mar. 14*, 239.
Trawling Prosecutions, Procedure in, *Mar. 19*, 665, 666.
Wages Inquiry, Scope of, *Mar. 14*, 236.

Kekewich, Sir G. W. [Exeter]
Education
  Scholarships Scheme, Working of, *Mar. 13*, 110.
  Welsh Department, Appointments to—Qualifications of Messrs. Davies and Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13*, 109.

Kelly, Mr. G. D. [Manchester, S.W.]
Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 22*, 1352.

Kells
Rural District Council—Reason for Serving Notices to quit on Tenants. *Q.* Mr. P. White; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 650.

Kennedy, Mr. V. P. [Cavan, W.]
Dowra—Population, Police Force, etc., *Mar. 18*, 428.
Factory Inspectors, Assistant, Method of Appointing, *Mar. 13*, 30.
Ingham Estate—Reinstatement Claim of P. McConnell, *Mar. 14*, 200.
Lisanover Ranch, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 15*, 342.
Morley Estate—Case of Ellen Kiernan, *Mar. 13*, 17.
Railway Charge on Carriage of Furniture, *Mar. 13*, 36.
Solicitors in Ireland, Discontinuance of Annual Licence Fee, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1471.

Kensington Gardens
Trees, Planted, Lopped and Cut down during present Year — Disposal of Lopped Branches, etc. *Qs.* Viscount Dalrymple, Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 19*, 667.

Kent
Pupil Teachers, Requirements of Local Education Committee. *Q.* Mr. Jenkins; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 27*, 1789.

[*cont.*

Kenyon, Lord
- Welsh Ponies, Deterioration in Breed of—Introduction of Legislation to deal with Question, proposed, *Mar. 21*, 1258.

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. [Shropshire, Newport]
- Army
  - Second Line
    - Civil Servants, Eligibility of, *Mar. 13*, 23.
    - Musketry Course for, *Mar. 14*, 205.
    - Uniform and Clothing, Supply of, *Mar. 25*, 1485–1486.
  - Seditious Handbills against Recruiting in Dublin, *Mar. 14*, 205.
  - Strength, Statistics as to, *Mar. 25* 1489.
- Private Members' Bills having obtained a Second Reading shouldnot be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1705–1707, 1710.
- Standing Committees, Referring Bills to—Motion for, Proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1700.

Kerry
- Postal Facilities, Improvement of. *Q.* Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 25*, 1522.

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill
- *c.* Report* *Mar. 26*, 1621.

Kilbride, Mr. D. [Kildare, S.]
- Barley, Malting—Quantities and Prices sold in certain Markets, *Mar. 20–21*, 833.
- Land Valuation, etc., Officials engaged in—System of making Appointments, *Mar. 13*, 45.
- Leitrim—Boycotting of the Bradys, *Mar. 13*, 49.
- Monasterevan Canal, Condition of, *Mar. 22*, 1286.
- Plunketstown—Case of Garret Stynes, *Mar. 20–21*, 871.
- Unemployed Grant of £200,000, Expenditure of, *Mar. 13*, 37.
- Whisky, Pot-still and Patent-still—Statistics as to Production (1886, 1896, 1906), *Mar. 20–21*, 851.

Killenaule
- Stokes, P., Charges against. *Q.* Mr. K. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 26*, 1623.

King, Mr. A. T. [Cheshire, Knutsford]
- Naval Shipbuilding Programme, *Mar. 18*, 450.

King, Sir H. S. [Hull, Central]
- Crete—Protection of Mussulman Population against Christian Persecution, *Mar. 14*, 191.
- India
  - Civil Service Family Pension Fund, Valuation of, *Mar. 25*, 1473.
  - Military Service Family Pension Fund, Valuation of, *Mar. 20–21*, 838.

Kinson
- Infectious Diseases Hospital for Bournemouth, Objections to Erection of. *Q.* Mr. Lyell; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 20–21*, 855.

Kingston
- Evictions, Possibility of Preventing. *Q.* Mr. Mooney; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1828.
- Houses closed on Certain Estates owing to Insanitation. *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1455.

Kingswood (Whitfield Tabernacle, Schoolroom, etc.) Charity Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 879.

Knocklong
- Sale Proposals and Reinstatement of Tenants on Property of the Misses Cooper. *Q.* Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1666, 1667.

Knockrow.
- Outrage and Alleged Intimidation at Farm of P. Raftery. *Qs.* Mr. C. Craig; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1668, 1669.

La Touche Estate
- Reinstatement Claim of F. Donlon. *Q.* Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 676, 677.

Labourers' Ireland Act
- Cottage Sites, Selection of Untenanted Land for, proposed. *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 863.
- Labourer residing in Urban District and working in Rural District, Application to. *Q.* Mr. Hogan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1463, 1464.
- Section 8, Powers conferred by. *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 862.

Lagos
- Town Improvement Scheme—Compensation paid to Hausas, etc. *Q.* Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 19*, 656, 657.

Lamb, Mr. E. H. [Rochester]
  Chatham Dockyard, Programme of Work in, *Mar. 15*, 338.

Lambert, Mr. G.—*Lord of the Admiralty* [Devon, S. Molton]
  Artificers, Changes in Duties and Training of, *Mar. 14*, 292.
  Battleships—Collisions and Groundings, Increase in number of, *Mar. 14*, 291.
  Coal Storage Expenditure, Reason for Reduction of, *Mar. 27*, 1791.
  Education and Training—Interchangeability Scheme, *Mar. 14*, 291.
  Greenwich Observatory—Effect of London County Council Generating Station, *Mar. 18*, 449.
  Home Fleet, Effect of, on Striking Strength, *Mar. 18*, 451.
  Medical Treatment for Sailors, Regulations as to, *Mar. 26*, 1633.
  Nucleus Crews, Battleships with, *Mar. 18*, 451.
  Portsmouth Dockyard Ashes, Removal of *Mar. 18*, 450.
  Repairing Stations—Facilities afforded on East and West Coasts, *Mar. 13*, 23.
  Rosyth Base
    Number of Men employed at, Aggregate Weekly Wage, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1792.
    Preliminary Works, Date of Completion, *Mar. 27*, 1792.
  Seamen's Kit, Provision of Free of Cost, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 292.
  Shipbuilding Programme, *Mar. 18*, 450.
  Shipwrights and Coopers, Reason for Reduction in Number of, *Mar. 14*, 291.
  Shortage or Special Service Men, Conditions, of Employment, *Mar. 14*, 292.
  Shottes Training Establishment—Allocation of Building Contract, *Mar. 18*, 450.
  Stokers, Changes in Duties and Training of, *Mar. 14*, 291.
  Supplementary Officers, Duties of, *Mar. 18* 449.
  Woolwich Arsenal, Naval Work allocated to, *Mar. 27*, 1791.

Lambton, Mr. F. W. [Durham, S.W.]
  Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 344, 380.

Lamont, Mr. N. [Buteshire]
  Arran Island—Clanchland Point, Erection of Light on, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1468.
  Bute—Medical Attendance for Lamlash and Kildonan Coastguards, *Mar. 20–21*, 837.
  Innellan Pier Parcel Hampers, Post Office Charge on, *Mar. 26*, 1624.

Lancaster, Duchy of
  Chancellor—Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.

Lancashire
  Schools, New, Sum allocated for, and Amount spent on.
    Qs. Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 18*, 476.

Land Act, 1903
  Effect and Policy of.
    Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 62, 63.
  Insolvent Property, Legality of Advances on.
    Qs. Mr. Ginnell; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 63, 64.

Land Commission (Ireland)
  See also Names of Places and Estates.
  Staff, Information as to.
    Qs. Mr. Field; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar 19*, 639, 640.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill
  c. 1R., *Mar. 26*, 1620.

Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill
  l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1620.

Land Purchase, Ireland
  See also Names of Places, Estates, etc.
  Delay in dealing with Cases—Expediting Proceedings proposed.
    Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 211, 212.
    Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1770.
  Landlords using Legal Oppressive Methods for Rent Recovery—Refusal of Aid of Forces of the Crown in Serving Writs, etc.
    Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20-21*, 863.
  Loans by Works Board, Regulations as to.
    Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 14*, 250.
  Maps of Estates, Cost of Copies of.
    Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1630.
  Public Trustee, Terms of Appointment.
    Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1771.
  Timber on Estates offered for Sale, Power to regulate cutting down.
    Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1479.
  Transactions in December, 1906, and January and February, 1907.
    Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 14, 46.

Land Registry

- Operations of, Unsatisfactory Character of.
  - *Os.* Mr. Maclean, *Mar. 18*, 580–582.
- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Land Values

- Taxation of, proposed.
  - *Os.* Mr. Bennett, *Mar. 26*, 1732; Mr. Hemmerde, 1748–1750; Mr. Lane-Fox, 1750–1752; Mr. Wedgwood, 1752–1756; Mr. Bridgeman, 1757.

Lane-Fox, Mr. G. [Yorks, W.R., Barkston Ash

- Army Training Arrangements for 3rd West Riding and 23rd York and Lancaster Regiments, *Mar. 22*, 1304.
- Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1013, 1049, 1084, 1128.
- Beer Tax—Differentiating between Malt and Hop Beer and that Brewed from Substitutes, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1644.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 991.
- Education
  - Teachers' Deferred Annuity Fund, Information as to, *Mar. 23*, 1367.
  - Welsh Department, Appointments to —Qualifications of Mr. Davies, etc., *Mar. 20*, 991.
- Land Values, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1750–1752.
- Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 389.
- Liquor Traffic—Necessity for dealing with Clubs, *Mar. 14*, 230, 231.
- Sitting of the House on 27th March—Hour of Meeting, *Mar. 26*, 1673.
- Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Re-adjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1750–1752.

Langley Estate, Gortnahoe

- Reinstatement Claims of M. Morriss, and and E. Kealy.
  - *Q.* Mr. K. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1774.

Lansdowne, Marquess of

- Agriculture Holdings Act 1906
  - Agreement, Invalidation of—Action of certain Landlords in Issuing Notices to Tenants, etc., *Mar. 14*, 185.
- British Indians in the Colonies, Disabilities of—Bringing Question before the Colonial Conference, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 630–633.
- Channel Tunnel, Construction of—Policy of the Government as to, *Mar. 21*, 1209–1212.
- Home Rule—Policy of Establishing in Ireland a Freely Elected Parliament and Executive responsible to it, *Mar. 20*, 810–816.

Lansdowne, Marquess of—*cont.*

- Procedure in Debate—Appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry into Standing Orders relating to, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 614–616.

Laundries

- Religious Institutions, Inspection of —Legislative Proposals.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *May 20–21*, 853.

Law, Mr. H. A. [Donegal, W.]

- Burtonport Harbour Improvement, Decision as to, *Mar. 18*, 448.
- Dublin Science College Librarian, Appointment of, *Mar. 13*, 50.
- Education
  - Building Plans and Grants, Proposals as to, *Mar. 23*, 1447.
  - Primary Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grants, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1447, 1448.
- Falcarragh—Purchase Proposals for Portion of Leitrim Estate, *Mar. 20–21*, 868.
- Magheragallon Pier, Improvement of—Petition from Fishermen, *Mar. 27*, 1778.
- Morocco Prisons, Condition of, *Mar. 26*, 1640.

Law Charges

- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Law Courts

- Appeal Cases Pending—Proposals for Reducing Arrears, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Cave; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20–21*, 839, 840.
- County Courts, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.
- Court of Appeal, Congestion of Business in.
  - *Os.* Mr. Cave, *Mar. 20*, 973.
- High Court of Justice—Documents of, not Sufficient Value to Justify Preservation, *Mar. 19*, 639; *Mar. 20*, 783.
- Ireland
  - Court of Probate Jurisdiction—Accounts (1906) Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1618, 1622.
  - Lord-Lieutenant's First Levee, Suspension of Sitting in order to Attend.
    - *Q.* Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1283.
  - Promotion System in High Court.
    - *Q.* Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1285, 1286.
  - Supreme Court of Judicature, etc., Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.
    - Closing on August Bank Holiday, proposed.
      - *Q.* Mr. Radford; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 25*, 1514, 1515.
    - Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

[*cont.*

Lea, Mr. H. C. [St. Pancras, E.]
  Army
    First Scottish Sub-district Royal Garrison Artillery—Order as to Sewing up of Soldiers' Trouser Pockets, *Mar. 18*, 454.
    Provost Marshall, Powers of, and Qualifications for Office of Assistant, *Mar. 25*, 1489.
    Soldiers, Civil Employment for, on Discharge—Rate of Wages Paid, *Mar. 20–21*, 841.
  Burma Railway Extension towards Kunlōn, Information as to, *Mar. 25*, 1490.
  Egypt—Assuan Dam, Reason for Raising, *Mar. 25*, 1498.
  Indo-Chinese Railway Survey Expenditure, *Mar. 27*, 1797.
  Liquor Traffic—Children taken into Public Houses, Legislative Proposals for Restricting, *Mar. 25*, 1505.
  Moneylenders Act, 1900—Application to Clerks proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1625.
  Post Office Mail Service to South Africa, Revision of, proposed, *Mar. 20–21*, 858.
  Somers Town, Cause of Insanitary State of Little Clarendon Street, *Mar. 14*, 235.
  Tonquin—Railway from Hanoi to Laokai, Information as to, *Mar. 25*, 1497.
  Whisky
    Definition of—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 14*, 235.
    Pot-still and Patent-still, Statistics as to Production of, *Mar. 20*, 851; *Mar. 27*, 1803.

Leahy Estate
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 425.

Lee, Mr. A. H. [Hampshire, Fareham]
  Navy
    Estimates, Report Stage, Rule as to Course of Discussion on, *Mar. 14*, 260.
    Home Fleet
      Constitution and Distribution of, *Mar. 14*, 257, 258.
      Duties of Commander-in-Chief, *Mar. 14*, 216.
      Fifth Cruiser Squadron, Duties of, *Mar. 14*, 259.
      Nore Division, Policy as to, *Mar. 14*, 258.
      Reserve of Guns and Ammunition, *Mar. 19*, 652.

Leeds
  Post Office
    Learners, Delay in Appointing.
      Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 26*, 1654, 1655.
    Overtime of Sorting Staff.
      Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 26*, 1654.

Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity Bill
  c. 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 878.

Legal Buildings
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Legal Expenses
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Lehmann, Mr. R. C. [Leicester, Market Harborough]
  Army—Flogging Regulations, *Mar. 20–21*, 839.
  Colonial Conference, 1907—Reply of General Botha to Invitation, *Mar. 13*, 27.

Leicester
  Unemployment in, Causes of, and Measures taken to Relieve.
    Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Mar. 27*, 1855–1857; Mr. Burns, 1872.

Leitrim
  Boycotting of the Bradys, Information as to.
    Qs. Captain Craig, Mr. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 48, 49.

Levy, Mr. M. [Leicestershire, Loughborough]
  Railways—Allegations as to Rejection of Claims upon Goods Carried at Owner's Risk, *Mar. 20–21*, 854.

Lewis, Island of
  Aignish Cattle, Proposals for Improving Breed of.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 479.
  Common Grazings of Skinned Land, Rendering Available for Erection of Fishermen's Houses, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 42.
  Fishermen, Loans to, for Purchase of Steam Drifters proposed.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26*, 1659.

Liberia
  Trade Report Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Licensed Premises (Election Days) Closing Bill
  c. 2R. *Mar. 15*, 400.

Licensing Bill
Date of Introduction, Possibility of Introducing in the House of Lords, etc.
Os. Archbishop of Canterbury, *Mar. 20,* 816; Earl of Crewe, 817, 818; Earl of Camperdown, 818.
Q. Mr. L. Jones; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 25,* 1522, 1523.

Licensing (Ireland) Act, 1902
Renewal, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19,* 677.

Liddell, Mr. H. [Down, W.]
Aliens—Criminal Statistics for Metropolitan Area during last five years, *Mar. 26,* 1648.
Postage Stamps, Automatic Machines for Supply of, *Mar. 26,* 1653, 1654.
Transvaal Parliament—Salaries Paid to Ministers, *Mar. 26,* 1637.

Lights on Vehicles Bill
c. 2R. *Mar. 15,* 381.

Lights and Lighthouses
Local Inspections—Reports Presented, *Mar. 23,* 1366; *Mar. 26,* 1619.

Limerick
Assizes—Jurors ordered to stand aside in Clare Shooting Case.
Q. Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 22,* 1277.
Condition of—Remarks of Mr. Justice Johnson.
Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 56.

Liquor Traffic
Children taken into Public-Houses, Legislative Proposals for Restricting.
Qs. Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Lea; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25,* 1505.
Clubs, Necessity for dealing with, and Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Lane-Fox; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14,* 230, 231.
Q. Mr. Clough; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 19,* 660.
Grocers' Licences, Amount sold under during 1905–6.
Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 27,* 1785, 1786.
Licensed houses known as Cow-houses and Cowsheds—Meaning of Term.
Q. Mr. Fiennes; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 20–21,* 852.
Licensing Justices, Pecuniary Liabilities of.
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26,* 1647, 1648.
Six-day and Early Closing Licences, Compensation Charges on.
Q. Mr. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 27,* 1806.

Liquor Traffic—*cont.*
Statistics (1906), Presented, *Mar. 23,* 1366; *Mar. 26,* 1618.
Taxation, Additional, on, proposed
Os. Mr. Bennett, *Mar. 26,* 1732, 1733.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 18,* 462, 463.

Lisanover Ranch
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 15,* 342.

Lisnageera
Land Purchased by C. Burnett, Area of, etc.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14,* 198, 199.

Listowel Estate
Untenanted Land, Purchase Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19,* 677.

Lixnaw
Flooding of Tenants' Holdings, Proposals for Prevention of.
Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1631.

Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill
c. *Rep.** *Mar. 14,* 188.
*Con.** *Mar. 19,* 635.
3R.* *Mar. 22,* 1261.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 26,* 1617.

Llanychan
School, Reason for Local Authority asking for Permission to cease maintaining.
Q. Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 14,* 242.
Qs. Mr. Bridgeman; *As.* Mr. Lough, *Mar. 20–21,* 857.

Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.—*The President of the Board of Trade* [Carnarvon Boroughs]
Abbeyfeale—Loading, etc., Accommodation of Great Southern and Western Railway, *Mar. 27,* 1787.
Aliens, Bankruptcies among—Statistics as to, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1808.
Austria-Hungary—Glass and Glassware exported to United Kingdom, *Mar. 18,* 474.
"Berlin," Wreck of—Investigation, *Mar. 13,* 32.
Bills, Tonnage Clauses in—Intentions of Board of Trade, *Mar. 20–21,* 835.
Canada
Anti-Dumping Law—Application to Goods from United States, *Mar. 22,* 1270.
Tariff Preference for British Goods, New Proposals as to, *Mar. 13,* 35.
Tin Plates, Imports of, from United States during 1903–6, *Mar. 27,* 1786.

Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.—*cont.*
  Colonial Conference, 1907—Discussion of Preferential Tariffs, *Mar. 22,* 1270.
  Colour Blindness, Efficiency of Board of Trade Tests for, *Mar. 27,* 1786.
  Companies, limited, Registration of, since 1895, *Mar. 13,* 21.
  Cotton Prices in New York and Liverpool, Difference between, *Mar. 20–21,* 835,
  Cutlery and Felt made in Germany and marked "Sheffield," Prevention of Importation of, *Mar. 23,* 1371.
  German Agricultural Machinery Imports from United Kingdom, *Mar. 18,* 474.
  London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 768–769, 770–771, 775.
  Merchant Shipping
    Dues for Harbour and Pilotage, Legislative Proposals as to, *Mar. 20–21,* 835.
    Oil, Distribution of, on stormy Waters, *Mar. 13,* 32.
  Navigation Conference, Reason for holding, etc., *Mar. 18,* 475.
  Patents and Designs Bill., Intro., *Mar. 19,* 683–687.
  Railways
    Complaints against Companies received in 1904, 1905, and 1906. *Mar. 20–21,* 854.
    Furniture, Carriage charged on, *Mar. 13,* 36.
    Goods carried at owners risk, Allegations as to Rejection of Claims upon, *Mar. 20–21,* 854.
    Great Eastern cheap Tickets to Discharged Government Workmen, Date of issuing, *Mar. 22,* 1269.
    Great Northern Company, Ireland Motor Trains, Second Class Accommodation in, *Mar. 13,* 20.
    Rates—Proposals for dealing with Grievances, *Mar. 18,* 473; *Mar. 27,* 1807.
  Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 371, 373, 375, 380.
  Slates, Welsh, German Import Duty on, *Mar. 13,* 33.
  Trade, Board of
    Marine Department Staff, Conditions of Service of, *Mar. 22,* 1268.
    White Paper 340, Reprinting of, proposed, *Mar. 22,* 1269.
  Trade Markets for British Goods remaining unexploited, *Mar. 13,* 35.
  Weights and Measures—Adoption of Metric System, *Mar. 22,* 1269.
  Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22,* 1355–1359.
  Wheat Imports into United Kingdom from Canada and United States (1904–5), *Mar. 13,* 34.

Local Bodies
  Women, Election of, to serve on—Date of introducing Bill.
    Q. Dr. Shipman; *A.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *Mar. 27,* 1791.

Local Government Act, 1894
  Appeals under Section 9, Subsection 4.
    Q. Mr. Billson; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 20–21,* 836.

Local Government Board
  President—Rt. Hon. J. Burns.
  Parliamentary Secretary—Dr. Macnamara.
  Report for 1906–7, Date of Publishing.
    Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14,* 207.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Local Government Board, Ireland
  Inspectors, Estimate for Salaries of.
    Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 864.
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Local Government Board, Scotland
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
  c. Rep. Mar. 14,* 187.
  3R. *Mar. 15,* 337.
  l. 1R.* *Mar. 18,* 408.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Mar. 23,* 1365.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Mar. 23,* 1365.

Local Taxation
  See Taxation, Local.

Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. [Essex, Epping]
  London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 761–762, 763, 775.
  Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 362, 363, 373, 376, 380.

London, City of
  Corporation Grant to Committees, Expenditure of.
    Q. Dr. Cooper; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22,* 1272.
  Defence of—Disposal of Sites, etc.
    Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 25,* 1488.

London County Council
  Accounts, Audit of.
    Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Sir E. Cornwall, Mr. J. Chamberlain; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18,* 470, 471.

London County Council—*cont*

Loans—Total Amount (1889–1907), Sums remaining unpaid, etc.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18*, 469–471.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill

c. 1R.* *Mar. 14*, 187.
2R.* *Mar. 19*, 635.

"London Gazette"

Naval and Military Officers, Grants to, Rule as to Publication of.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 193.

London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill

c. Rep. *Mar. 14*, 187.
3R. *Mar. 15*, 337.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 408.

London Municipal Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill

c. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 489.

London Municipal Society

Subscription to, from London and North Western Railway.
Q. Mr. Trevelyan; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 238.

London and North Western Railway Bill

c. 2R., *Mar. 19*, 756.

London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill

c. Rep. *Mar. 14*, 187.

Londonderry

Postal Facilities in certain Places, Improvement of, proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Doherty; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13*, 65.

Londonderry, Marquess of

Agriculture Holdings Act, 1906 Agreements, Invalidation of—Action of certain Landlords in issuing Notices to Tenants, etc., *Mar. 14*, 183, 184.

Home Rule—Policy of establishing in Ireland a Freely Elected Parliament and Executive responsible to it, *Mar. 20*, 800–804.

Long, Mr. W. H. [Dublin, S.]

Agrarian Outrages (1902–1907), *Mar. 20–21*, 826.

Army—Satisfactory Service which has not earned a Pension, Allowance for, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1305.

Army Annual Bill Memorandum, Reason for withdrawing, etc., *Mar. 20–21*, 875.

Long, Mr. W. H.—*cont.*

Bills—Private Members' Bills having obtained a Second Reading should not be subsequently adopted by the Government, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1708.

Boycotting Cases on 1st inst, *Mar. 20–21*, 827.

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 155–158.

Education

Bursaries, Possibility of Establishing System of, *Mar. 23*, 1413, 1414.

Co-ordination of—Publication of Report of Committee of Inquiry into, proposed, *Mar. 23*, 1413.

Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to remedying and increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1409–1414.

Schools, Insanitary Condition of, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1410.

Teachers, Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1411.

Government Departments, Powers and Duties of—Return proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1301.

Hollesley Bay Labour Colony, Working of Experiment, *Mar. 27*, 1882.

Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23*, 1411, 1412.

Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 395.

London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 772, 773, 774.

Persons receiving Police Protection in Ireland on 1st instant, *Mar. 20–21*, 826.

Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 740–742.

Standing Committees

Bills having passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than two-thirds to be sent to Grand Committee, proposed, *Mar. 24*, 1599.

Exemption of Bills imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1716.

Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1535–1547.

Motion for referring Bills to, proposed, Pocedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1691.

Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1590.

Scottish Committee, Proposals as to Establishment, *Mar. 25*, 1538.

Unemployed Workmen Act, Administration of, *Mar. 27*, 1881, 1882.

Longton (Caroline Street Chapel) Charity Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 879.

Longworth Estate
- Sale Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 872.

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B. [Armagh, Mid.]
- Agricultural Pests, Powers of dealing with, *Mar. 13*, 51.
- Ardagh United Irish League Demonstration—Speech as to Boycotting of Mr. Keane, *Mar. 13*, 55.
- Army
  - Accounts Department
    - Cost of Transfer of Members, etc., *Mar. 18*, 418–420.
    - Emoluments and Promotion in' *Mar. 22*, 1286, 1287.
  - Cadet Corps, Sum voted for, *Mar. 26*, 1625.
  - Second Line—Appointment of Divisional Generals, *Mar. 26*, 1625.
- Cloveneden, Procession of Ancient Order of Hibernians—Route taken, *Mar. 13*, 54.
- Cork, Winter Assizes, Jury Challenging at, *Mar. 13*, 61.
- Education—Schools
  - Amount available for Building and Improving, *Mar. 18*, 426; *Mar. 20–21*, 865.
  - Rebuilding, Expenditure of Sums voted for, *Mar. 20–21*, 864.
- Egyptian Nationalist Party, Proposals for dealing with, *Mar. 22*, 1266.
- Hague Conference—Discussion of Disarmament, Proposals, *Mar. 18*, 462.
- India—Reason for Refusal of Facilities to ascend Mount Everest, *Mar. 22*, 1279.
- Local Government Board Inspectors, Salaries of, *Mar. 20–21*, 864.
- Malta, Civil and Military Acountants, Emoluments of, *Mar. 18*, 420.
- Persons receiving Police Protection in Ireland on 1st instant, *Mar. 13*, 10; *Mar. 20*, 865.
- Roscommon Assizes—Direction to Crown Solicitor by Mr. Justice Kenny, *Mar. 18*, 486.
- Ryan's Estate—Threatening Letter sent to Mr. H. Burns, *Mar. 13*, 55, 56.
- Transvaal, Chinese Labour Contracts, Renewal of, *Mar. 18*, 459.

Lord Advocate for Scotland
- *Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.*

Lord Chamberlain
- *Viscount Althorp.*

Lord Chancellor
- *Lord Loreburn.*

Lord Chief Justice
- *Lord Alverstone.*

Lord Great Chamberlain
- *Marquess of Cholmondeley.*

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland
- *Earl of Aberdeen.*

Lord President of the Council
- *Earl of Crewe.*

Lord Privy Seal
- *Marquess of Ripon.*

Loreburn, Lord—*Lord Chancellor.*
- Baines' Name Bill, 2R., *Mar. 13*, 3.
- Byrne's Divorce Bill, *Com., Mar. 19*, 598,
- Chairman and Speaker of House of Lords, Increasing Powers of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 619, 620.
- Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14*, 175.
- County Courts Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14*, 176.
- Home Rule—Policy of Establishing in Ireland a Freely-elected Parliament and Executive responsible to it, *Mar. 20*, 804–810.
- Judicature Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14*, 180.

Lough, Mr.—*Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education* [Islington, W.]
- Gateshead Schools—Notice issued by Committee as to Children living in Durham, *Mar. 20–21*, 856.
- Llanychan School, Reason for Considering Unnecessary, *Mar. 20–21*, 857.
- Secondary School Regulations, Date of Publishing, *Mar. 20–21*, 857.
- Training College Schemes, Information as to, *Mar. 20–21*, 858.
- Welsh Department
  - Legal Advisers, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20–21*, 857.
  - Proposals for, *Mar. 20–21*, 856.

Loughrea
- Gaelic Athletic Association—Speech mad by Mr. P. Larkin, J.P.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 53.
- Irish Interpreter, Vacancy, Date of filling, Remuneration offered, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Gwynn; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1776.

Lunacy
- Commission, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.
- District Asylums, Discharge of Dangerous Patients from, and Class of Patients admitted to.
  - *Q.* Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Shaw, *Mar. 22*, 1275.
- Scotland, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Lundon, Mr. W. [Limerick, E.]

Ballynanty—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Hartigan, *Mar. 26*, 1665.

Barrington, Sir C., Estates of, Culnahilla' Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1462.

Beltyville—Reinstatement Claim of Edmond Hartigan, *Mar. 26*, 1666.

Dicken Estate, Sale Proposals for—Case of P. O'Brien J., *Mar. 25*, 1462.

Dunraven Estate, Sale of—Cases of Spearing and Drew, *Mar. 26*, 1667.

Knocklong—Sale Proposals for Property of the Misses Cooper, *Mar. 26*, 1666.

Moohan—Negotiations as to Farm occupied by T. Kirby, *Mar. 26*, 1666.

Mountshannon Estate, Reinstatement Claims of Evicted Tenants, Decision as to, *Mar. 25*, 1461.

Lupton, Mr. A. [Lincolnshire, Sleaford]

Army, Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14*, 327, 328.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis—Age of Persons attacked, etc., *Mar. 18*, 471, 472.

Navy

- Battleships, Collisions and Groundings, Increase in Number of, *Mar. 14*, 290.
- Shipbuilding Programme, *Mar. 18*, 450.
- Strength of, *Mar. 14*, 289.

Railways—Payment of Interest out of Capital during Construction of New Lines—Amendment of Standing Order, 167, *Mar. 14*, 320.

Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 379.

Vaccination

- Acts Administration—Placing Officer under Control of Guardians, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 472.
- Calves used at National Vaccine Establishment in 1906, *Mar. 19*, 661, 662.
- Cases of Olive Hunt and W. Kellam, *Mar. 20–21*, 836.
- Lymph, Source of Origin of, *Mar. 27*, 1868–1870.
- Reports as to Results, Reason for Non-publication of, *Mar. 27*, 1809.
- Wenham, Mabel Ellen, Inquiry into Death of, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1810.

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 22*, 1359, 1360.

Luttrell, Mr. H. F. [Devon, Tavistock]

Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1105.

Lyell, Mr. C. H. [Dorset, E.]

Kinson — Objections to Erection of Infectious Diseases Hospital for Bournemouth, *Mar. 20–21*, 855.

Nigeria Railway Extension, Proposals as to, *Mar. 20–21*, 845.

Lynch, Mr. H. F. B. [Yorks, W.R., Ripon]

"Berlin," Wreck of—Improvement of Entrances to Continental Harbours, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 666.

Macedonia

- Budget, Particulars of, *Mar. 19*, 643; *Mar. 20*, 849; *Mar. 26*, 1639, 1640.
- Reform Proposals—Initiative of Projects, Understanding as to, *Mar. 14*, 226, 227.

Persia—Protection of British Legation and Consulates, *Mar. 20–21*, 849.

Turkish Frontier Dispute with Persia—Progress of Negotiations, *Mar. 19*, 657; *Mar. 26*, 1639.

Lyttelton Rt. Hon. A. [St. George's, Hanover Square]

Africa, South, Land Settlement

- Progress made with, and Government Policy as to, *Mar. 18*, 533.
- Sum Allocated from War Contribution Loan, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 533–537.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 515, 526, 528–531, 533, 537, 538, 540, 542, 545.

Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount Paid under and Proposals as to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1847.

Newfoundland Fisheries—*Modus Vivendi*

- Circumstances of granting—Statute Law of the Colony over-ridden, *Mar. 18*, 527–532.
- History of the Dispute, *Mar. 18*, 526.

McCalmont, Colonel J. [Antrim, E.]

Doagh School, Grant for, *Mar. 14*, 211.

McCormack, Miss, Estate of

Sale Proposals for.

Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1477, 1478.

McCrae, Mr. G. [Edinburgh, E.]

Business Committee consisting of Speaker and six other Members, to be appointed to consider all Bills, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1582.

Macdonald, Mr. J. A. M. [Falkirk Burghs]

Agriculture Scientific Research Departmental Committee—Reason for Exclusion of Scotland from Terms of Reference, *Mar. 27*, 1820.

Army, Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14*, 304, 305.

Naval Vessels struck off the Effective List since 1904 (Great Britain and certain Foreign Countries), *Mar. 25*, 1482.

Macdonald, Mr. J. R. [Leicester]

China—Kowloon-Canton Railway—Terms of Sleeper Contract, *Mar. 27*, 1800.

Macdonald, Mr. J. R.—*cont.*
- Factories
  - Complaints as to Insanitary Conditions (1906–7), *Mar. 26,* 1649.
  - Inspectors, Inquests attended by Assistants, *Mar. 25,* 1504.
- Government Contracts — Observance of Fair Wages Clause, *Mar. 18,* 487.
- Postage on Periodicals, etc., sent to Canada, *Mar. 14,* 241.

Mackarness, Mr. F. C. [Berkshire, Newbury]
- Africa, East—Labour Recruitment for the Transvaal Mines—Monopoly by Witwatersrand Association, *Mar. 18,* 515.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 512–514, 515–517.
- Natal Native Rising, Treatment of Natives, *Mar. 18,* 514.
- New Hebrides Convention, Provisions of, *Mar. 18,* 512–514.
- Newbury Railway Station, Necessity for Improving, *Mar. 25,* 1510.
- Transvaal
  - Chinese Labour
    - Abolition of System, Necessity for, *Mar. 18,* 514–517.
    - Licences, Policy with regard to Licences granted by the late Government, *Mar. 18,* 515.
  - Mines—Value of Drill, *Mar. 25,* 1493.
  - Native Labour, Facilities for Recruitment of, *Mar. 25,* 1494.
  - Second Chamber, Constitution of, *Mar. 18,* 514.

McKenna, Mr. R.—*President, Board of Education* [Monmouth, N.]
- Administration of Acts—Necessity for Identity of Interpretation, *Mar. 14,* 243.
- Attendance, Basis of Calculating, *Mar. 18,* 477.
- Code—Application to Wales, *Mar. 13,* 40.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20,* 975–976, 983.
- Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill—Provisions for Medical Inspection, *Mar. 18,* 422.
- Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14,* 242.
  - Teachers Unemployed owing to, *Mar. 14,* 242.
- Empire Day Demonstrations by School Children, *Mar. 18,* 477.
- Grants, Allocation of, *Mar. 19,* 669.
  - Hygiene and Temperance, Inclusion of, in Code, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 108.
- Kent Education Committee—Requirements for Pupil Teachers, *Mar. 27,* 1789.

McKenna, Mr. R.—*cont.*
- Lancashire Schools, Sum Allocated to, *Mar. 18,* 476.
- Llanychan School, Reason for Local Authority asking for Permission to Cease Maintaining, *Mar. 14,* 242.
- Merionethshire—Elementary Schools recently Erected in, Decision as to, *Mar. 27,* 1813, 1814.
- Schools
  - New, Grant for, Allocation of, *Mar. 14,* 243; *Mar. 20,* 975, 976.
  - Public Meetings, Letting for, *Mar. 18,* 475.
  - Secondary Education, Policy as to Criticisms on, *Mar. 13,* 107.
- South Kensington Technical College, Governing Body of, *Mar. 23,* 1370.
- Special Grants, Expenditure of Sum Voted for, *Mar. 18,* 422.
- Sunday Teaching of a Socialistic Character given in certain Schools, alleged, *Mar. 13,* 101.
- Teachers
  - Deferred Annuity Fund, Information as to, *Mar. 23,* 1367.
  - Pensions, Information as to, *Mar. 19,* 668.
  - Salaries in Non-Provided Schools, *Mar. 18,* 476.
    - Powers of Managers with regard to, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1814.
    - Return as to, *Mar. 25,* 1514.
  - Workmen's Compensation Act, Application to, *Mar. 23,* 1370.
- Training Colleges
  - Building Grants for, *Mar. 18,* 417.
  - Hostels, Application of Grant for, *Mar. 18,* 436.
- Welsh Department
  - Appointments—Qualifications of Mr. Davies and Mr. O. Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13,* 102–106.
  - Cost of, *Mar. 13,* 105, 106.
  - Information as to, *Mar. 13,* 17, 40.
  - Secretary, Position of, *Mar. 13,* 40.
- Worcestershire County Council Grants, Delay in Paying, *Mar. 25,* 1514.

MacLean, Mr. D. [Bath]
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 15,* 580.
- Debt, Commitments to Prison for—Increase in Number of, Restriction of Present Powers, proposed, *Mar. 20,* 939.
- Land Registry, Operations of, Unsatisfactory Character of, *Mar. 18,* 580–582.
- Liquor Licences, Six-day and Early Closing, Compensation Charges on, *Mar. 27,* 1806.

Macnamara, Dr. T. J.—*Parliamentary Secretary Local Government Board* [Camberwell, N.]

Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20,* 954–958.

MacNeill, Mr. J. G. S. [Donegal, S.]

Agriculture Department—Leave of Absence Granted to Sir H. Plunkett, *Mar. 13,* 46.

Criminal Procedure in Ireland—Right of Appeal, etc., *Mar. 13,* 60.

Law Courts, Irish—Suspension of Sitting to Attend Lord Lieutenant's Levee, *Mar. 22,* 1283.

Magistrates, Irish Resident, Procedure in Appointing, *Mar. 13,* 48.

National School Teachers, Number of and Increments Awarded to, *Mar. 22,* 1301.

Privy Council—Judicial Attendance at Meetings, etc., *Mar. 22,* 1282.

Roscommon Assizes—Direction to Crown Solicitor by Mr. Justice Kenny, *Mar. 18,* 485, 486.

Speech by Senior Member for City of London—Breach of Privilege, alleged, *Mar. 20,* 876, 877.

MacVeagh, Mr. J. [Down, S.]

Agriculture Department—Total Amount Voted for since Establishment, and Rate per Head of Population, *Mar. 27,* 1777.

Agriculture and Fisheries, Board of—Total Amount Voted for since Establishment and Rate per head of Population, *Mar. 27,* 1787.

Army, Irish Contribution to, and Total Value of Contracts placed in Ireland, *Mar. 27,* 1789.

Army (Annual) Bill, Com., *Mar. 21,* 1158.

Government Departments, Ireland—Total Cost for 1905 and 1906, *Mar. 27,* 1777.

Judges—Allowances on Circuit to Bristol and Newcastle, *Mar. 25,* 1504.

Navy, Irish Contribution to and Total Value of Contracts placed in Ireland, *Mar. 27,* 1781.

Population of Ireland in 1895–6 and 1905–6, *Mar. 27,* 1780.

Revenue, Irish Contribution to, in 1895–6 and 1905–6, *Mar. 27,* 1780.

Tannamore Orange Meeting—Speech of Mr. A. Lloyd, *Mar. 26,* 1668.

MacVeigh, Mr. C. [Donegal, E.]

Abercorn, Estate of Duke of, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 25,* 1519.

Ballybofey Railway Station, Right of Company to Discontinue use of, *Mar. 22,* 1280.

MacVeigh, Mr. C.—*cont.*

Donegal Fisheries—Protest against Projected By-law of Agriculture Department, *Mar. 25,* 1519; *Mar. 27,* 1827.

Dublin Technical Training College, Materials used in Erecting, *Mar. 25,* 1521.

Hayes Estate

Reinstatement Claim of R. Cooke, *Mar. 25,* 1461.

Sale proposals for, *Mar. 18,* 427.

Macedonia

Budget

Military Expenditure charged to.
Qs. Mr. Lynch; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20,* 849.
Qs. Mr. Lynch; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26,* 1639, 1640.

Particulars of—Instructions to British Financial Delegate.
Q. Mr. Lynch; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 19,* 643, 644.

Financial Commission Report, Proposals as to Tabling.
Q. Mr. C. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25,* 1498.

Reform Proposals, Initiative of Projects, Understanding as to.
Qs. Mr. Lynch; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14,* 226, 227.

Maddison, Mr. F. [Burnley]

Army, Reductions effected in, *Mar. 14,* 332–334.

Maghergallon Pier

Improvement of—Petition from Fishermen.
Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1778.

Magistrates

Appointments since Feb. 1st, 1906.
Q. Mr. Partington; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26,* 1623.

Clerks Participating in Assize Prosecutions—Objections to System, etc.
Q. Mr. Henry; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 18,* 477.

Competence to Administer the Law after Prosecution for refusal to pay Rates—Towcester Case.
Qs. Mr. Hunt; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20–21,* 875.

Irish Resident Magistrates, Procedure in Appointing.
Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 47, 48.

Magnus, Sir P. [London University]

Wild Birds Protection Act, Inquiry into effects of, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1818.

Maidstone Gas Bill
c. *Rep.* Mar. 22*, 1263.

Mallet, Mr. C. E. [Plymouth]
Fishery Grounds, Protection of—Vessels employed, *Mar. 23*, 1366.

Malta
Civil and Military Accountants, Emoluments of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 420.
Garrison, Reduction of.
Os. Mr. Ashley, *Mar. 14*, 307; Mr. Haldane, 309, 310; Lord Balcarres, 310, 312.

Manchester
Unemployed in—Progress made with Farm Colony Scheme, etc.
Qs. Mr. Clynes, *Mar. 27*, 1863; Mr. Burns, 1876, 1877.
Number of, and Proposals for providing Work.
Qs. Mr. Clynes; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 13*, 37; *Mar. 26*, 1651, 1652.

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill
l. Rep. Mar. 19*, 597.

Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) Bill
l. Rep. Mar. 19*, 597.

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill
l. 3R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 637.

Marines, Royal
Artillery Sergeants' Mess—Beer delivered at Pensioned Warrant Officer's House.
Q. Mr. Mond; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 25*, 1482.

Markham, Mr. A. B. [Notts, Mansfield]
Schools, Letting of, for Public Meetings, *Mar. 18*, 475.
Scottish Church
Commission Vacancy, Proposals for filling, *Mar. 13*, 21.
Decision as to Places of Meeting, *Mar. 13*, 22.
Right of Appeal against Decision of, *Mar. 13*, 21.

Marks, Mr. G. C. [Cornwall, Launceston]
Navy—Stokers, Changes in Duties and Training of, *Mar. 14*, 263–265.

Marnham, Mr. F. J. [Surrey, Chertsey]
Bentley Motor Train Fatality, Alleged Refusal of Military Doctor at Bordon Camp to render Assistance, *Mar. 27*, 1792.
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 389.

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill
c. *Rep.* Mar. 19*, 682.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill
c. *Rep.* Mar. 22*, 1263.
3R.* *Mar. 25*, 1452.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Married Women's Property Act
Amending Bill, Proposals for Introducing.
Q. Mr. J. M. Henderson; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 14*, 244, 245.

Mason, Mr. J. F. [Windsor]
Inchigiela, Letter Robbery at, Efforts made to Trace Offenders, *Mar. 27*, 1824.

Masterman, Mr. C. F. G. [West Ham, N.]
Hollesley Bay Labour Colony, Working of Experiment, *Mar. 27*, 1866.
Unemployed Workmen Act, Administration of, *Mar. 27*, 1865–1867.

Medway Lower Navigation Bill
l. 3R.* *Mar. 19*, 597.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 20*, 819.

Meehan, Mr. P. A. [Queen's County, Leix]
Barrow River Drainage Proposals, *Mar. 20-21*, 824.
Dublin Registry of Deeds Office, Increase of Work in, etc., *Mar. 20–21*, 830.

Mellon Udrigle
Boat Slip, Reply to Petition for Construction of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 479.

Members of Parliament
Speech by Senior Member for City of London—Alleged Breach of Privilege.
Os. Mr. S. MacNeill, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 20*, 876–878.

Menzies, Mr. W. [Lanarkshire, S.]
Army
Estimates, Reductions effected in, *Mor. 14*, 308.
Officers, Promotion from the Ranks, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 308, 309.
Colonial Ex-Governors engaging in Commercial Enterprises affecting Colonies with which they have been connected, *Mar. 20–21*, 846.
Fishery Rights in Scottish Rivers—Legislation to unify Present Law, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 480.

Mercers Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Gordon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 191.

Merchandise Marks Bill
c. 2R.* *Mar. 15*, 404.

Merchant Shipping
[*For* particular Vessels, *see their names.*]
Colour Blindness, Efficacy of Board of Trade Tests.
Q. Mr. H. Heaton; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 27*, 1786.
Dues for Harbour and Pilotage, Legislative Proposals as to.
Q. Sir B. Gurdon; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 20–21*, 835.
Foreign Countries, Funds provided by, for Training of Officers and Seamen.
Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 207.
Oil, Distribution of, on Stormy Water—Compelling Vessels to carry Apparatus, proposed.
Qs. Sir E. Sassoon, Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13*, 31, 32.
Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 209.
Rocket Apparatus, Compulsory carrying of, by Vessels, proposed.
Q. Mr. Hart-Davis; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 19*, 647.
Training of Officers and Seamen, Schemes for—Assistance from Public Funds, proposed.
Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 237, 238.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 25*, 1527.

Merionethshire
Elementary Schools in, Recently erected, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 27*, 1813, 1814.

Mesopotamia
Concessions of Petroliferous Deposits by the Porte.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Sir E. Grey. *Mar. 26*, 1642.

Metropolitan Borough Councils
Accounts, Proposals for Issue of Order and Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19*, 645.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill
c. Rep. Mar. 22*, 1263.
3R.* *Mar. 25*, 1452.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Metropolitan Water Board
Accounts—Decision as to Order.
Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19*, 661.

Metric System
See under Weights and Measures.

Mexico
Budget Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Meysey-Thompson, Mr. E. C. [Staffordshire, Handsworth]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21*, 1079, 1085.

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill
l. Rep. Mar. 19*, 597.

Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornby Tramways Bill
l. 2R.* *Mar. 14*, 161.

Milan Exposition
Diplomas and Medals, Cause for Delay in Presenting.
Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 669.

Mildmay, Mr. F. B. [Devonshire, Totnes]
Fisheries—Protection of Grounds against Illegal Trawling—Proposals for Inquiry, *Mar. 14*, 253; *Mar. 27*, 1790.

Militia
Act of 1882, Proposals as to Repeal of.
Os. Earl of Portsmouth, *Mar. 21*, 1234.
Artillery Training Proposals.
Q. Major. Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22*, 1288.
Clare Regiment, Training Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22*, 1290.
Establishment of each Unit, Return as to, Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1766.
Officers' Full Dress Uniform, Proposals as to under New Scheme.
Q. Colonel Sandys; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27*, 1789.
Recruiting for the Line through, Proposals as to.
Os. Duke of Bedford, *Mar. 21*, 1224–1227, 1238; Earl of Portsmouth, 1238; Viscount Hardinge, 1238.
Reform Proposals.
Os. Earl of Wemyss, *Mar. 21*, 1212–1216; Duke of Bedford, 1216–1228; Viscount Hardinge, 1230–1232; Earl of Portsmouth, 1233–1240; Marquess of Salisbury, 1240–1249; Lord Abinger, 1249–1251; Lord Tweedmouth, 1252–1255; Earl of Donoughmore, 1255.
Services rendered by.
Os. Duke of Bedford, *Mar. 21*, 1216–1219; Marquess of Salisbury, 1247; Lord Abinger, 1250.
Transfer and Training for Territorial Army, Proposals as to.
Os. Earl of Portsmouth, *Mar. 21*, 1234, 1235.

Milk
Municipal Depots, Proposals as to Legislation for dealing with.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14,* 190.

Mines
Eight Hours Day—Report of Departmental Committee of Inquiry, Presented, *Mar. 27,* 1767.
Inspectors, Names and Previous Occupations of—Return Ordered, *Mar. 27,* 1769.

Mint
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill
c. *Rep.* Mar. 20,* 818.

Mitcham and Wimbledon Gas Bill
c. *Con.* Mar. 26,* 1620.

Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. W. [Lanark, N.W.]
Canada, Commercial Treaties—Interpretation of Most-favoured Nation Clause, *Mar. 25,* 1497.
Colonial Office
- Affairs of Western Pacific, Tabling Despatch as to, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1492.
- Despatch of 20th April, 1906—Matters mentioned regarding Western Pacific, *Mar. 26,* 1638.

Education Bill, Provision of, *Mar. 25,* 1517.
Jamaica Earthquake, Grant for Relief of Distress, Decision as to, *Mar. 25,* 1523.
Patent Law Amendment Bill, Introduction, Date of, *Mar. 14,* 237.
Servian Tariff Arrangement—Views of British Colonies, *Mar. 14,* 224, 225.
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro. *Mar. 19,* 719–723, 724–725.
United States
- Germany Trade Arrangements with—Safeguarding British Interests, *Mar. 14,* 223.
- Shipping Trade between East and West Coasts, *Mar. 25,* 1497.

West Indies, Profit on Sale of Silver to *Mar. 26,* 1644.

Molteno, Mr. P. A. [Dumfriesshire]
Agriculture, Scientific Research—Terms of Reference of Departmental Committee, *Mar. 27,* 1818.

Monasterevan
Canal, Condition of.
Q. Mr. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22,* 1286.

Mond, Mr. A. [Chester]
Marines, Royal—Artillery Sergeant's Mess—Beer Delivered at Pensioned Warrant Officer's House, *Mar. 25,* 1482.
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 375 376.

Money, Mr. L. G. Chiozza [Paddington, N.]
Consols, Decline in Value of, *Mar. 18,* 465.
Income-Tax, Incidence of, *Mar. 26,* 1738, 1741, 1742.
National Gallery—Sale of Photographs of Pictures, *Mar. 19,* 671.
National Physical Laboratory, Work of—Grants received, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1657.
Post Office Savings Bank Funds—Applying to Erection of Working Class Houses, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1645.
Standing Committees, Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise Ordered, proposed, *Mar. 20,* 930–933.
Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, *Mar. 26,* 1735–1744.
Telegraph Service, Temporary Assistants, Reason for Employment of, *Mar. 25,* 1454.
Wealth, Distribution of, *Mar. 26,* 1736.

Moneylenders Act, 1900
Aplication to Clerks proposed.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Sir L. Walton, *Mar. 26,* 1625.

Montagu, Mr. E. S. [Cambridgeshire Chesterton]
Agricultural Holdings Act, Evasion of, by certain Landlords, Allegations as to—Letter from Lord Egerton of Tatton, *Mar. 14,* 246.
Agriculture, Scientific Research—Terms of Reference of Departmental Committee, *Mar. 27,* 1818.
Birds—Inquiry into Feeding Habits and Utility of, proposed, *Mar. 27,* 1817.
Railway Rates, Date of Dealing with Question, *Mar. 27,* 1806, 1807.

Moohan
Farm occupied by Mr. T. Kirby, Negotiations as to.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26,* 1666.

Mooney, Mr. J. J. [Newry]
Belfast School Children—Prosecution for Non-Atendance during 1906, *Mar. 18,* 441.
Criminal Statistics
- Crimes in England (1902–1907), *Mar. 25,* 1508.
- Habitual Criminals at large in England (1902–1907), *Mar. 25,* 1507.

[*cont.*

Mooney, Mr. J. J.—*cont.*
  Kingston Evictions, Possibility of Preventing, *Mar. 27*, 1828.
  National School Teachers—Salaries withdrawn during 1906, *Mar. 18*, 426.
  Wiltshire, Crime in, *Mar. 25*, 1507.

Moore, Mr. W. [Armagh, N.]
  Cloveneden Procession of Ancient Order of Hibernians — Route taken, *Mar. 13*, 54.
  Land Valuation, etc., Officials engaged in—System of making Appointments, *Mar. 13*, 45.

Moray Firth
  Fish Bred in, Statistics as to.
    Q. Mr. C. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 22*, 1271.
  Scientific Investigation in, Nature of.
    Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27*, 1819, 1820.
  Trawling in
    English Vessels, Prohibition of Entry.
      Os. Mr. A. S. Wilson, *Mar. 18*, 557.
    Foreign Vessels observed Working since since Decision of High Court of Justiciary.
      Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 14*, 190.
      Q. Sir A. Bignold; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 422.
    Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc.
      Os. Mr. A. S. Wilson, *Mar. 18*, 558–560; Mr. A. Williamson; 562, 563; Sir A. Bignold, 565; Mr. Crombie, 566; Mr. Sinclair, 567; Major Anstruther-Gray, 567; Mr. Sutherland, 567–571; Mr. Morton, 571–574; Mr. J. C. Wason, 574–575.
      Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 43.
      Q. Mr. Sutherland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 481, 482.
      Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27*, 1785.
      Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27*, 1819.
    Number of Vessels observed since 2nd March.
      Qs. Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 14*, 249.
    Policy of the Government.
      Qs. Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 484.
      Qs. Mr. A. S. Wilson, Mr. Pirie, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. Weir, Mr. Ferens; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 13*, 43.
    Prevention, Measures taken for.
      Q. Captain Waring; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 14*, 248.
      Q. Mr. Sutherland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 41.

Moray Firth—*cont.*
  Trawling in—*cont.*
    Rewards offered for Information, Effect of.
      Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 19*, 673.
    Waters outside Three-Mile Limit enclosed in—Terms of By-law No. 8.
      Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 27*, 1819.

Morley, Rt. Hon. J.—*Secretary of State for India* [Montrose Burghs]
  Administration—Speech by Sir A. Fraser, *Mar. 14*, 194.
  Army
    Military Service Family Pension Fund, Valuation of, *Mar. 20–21*, 838.
    Mill, Major, Compassionate Allowance to Daughter of, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1475.
  Assam Coolie Children, Education of, *Mar. 14*, 210.
  Bengal
    Boycott of British Goods, Effect of, *Mar. 26*, 1472.
    Chowkidari Tax, Decision as to, *Mar. 14*, 211.
    Excise Bill, Re-introduction of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 654.
  Bombay Ryots evicted for non-Payment of Land Tax (1899–1904), *Mar. 22*, 1300.
  Budget, Date of Taking, *Mar. 19*, 642.
  Civil Service
    Contributions by Native Officials to Family Pension Funds, *Mar. 18*, 439.
    Family Pension Fund, Valuation of, *Mar. 25*, 1473.
  Comilla Disturbance, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 654.
  Dacca, Nawab of—Embarrassed Condition of Estate, *Mar. 14*, 195.
  Eastern Bengal and Assam Era, Publication of Inflammatory Matter in, *Mar. 22*, 1280.
  Haffkine, Dr., Appointment of, *Mar. 19*, 644.
  India Office, Deputations as to certain Grievances, receiving of, *Mar. 14*, 195.
  Indigo, synthetic—Cost of Manufacture, etc., *Mar. 18*, 440.
  Moplah Rifles—Decision as to Disbandment, *Mar. 25*, 1472.
  Mount Everest, Ascent of—Reason for Refusal of Facilities. *Mar. 22*, 1279.
  Natal British Indians, Trading Rights of, *Mar. 19*, 641.
  National Congress, Tabling Resolutions, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 655.
  Opium Traffic—Proposals for Restriction, *Mar. 19*, 654.

[*cont.*

Morley, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
  Railways
    Inquiry, Proposals as to, *Mar. 16*, 1624.
    Rolling Stock, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 14*, 194.

Morley Estate
  Case of Ellen Kiernan.
    Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 17, 18.

Morocco
  British Consulate, Attack on, Information as to.
    Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 27*, 1803.
  Prisons, Condition of.
    Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26*, 1640.

Morrell, Mr. P. [Oxfordshire, Henley]
  Watlington Petty Sessions — Case of Quarterman, *Mar. 14*, 233.

Morton, Mr. A. C. [Sutherland]
  Blocking Motions and Bills put on the Order Paper to Prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, *Mar. 27*, 1890.
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 571.
  Education
    Grant for New Schools, Proposals as to, *Mar. 26*, 1660.
    Legislative Proposals for Dealing with Franchise, *Mar. 26*, 1660.
  Education Bill, Provisions of, *Mar. 25*, 1517.
  Education (Scotland) Bill, Application of Provisions of to England, *Mar. 20*, 908.
  Equivalent Grants, Arrangement for, and Application of, *Mar. 25*, 1456–1498.
  Fishery Grounds, Cruisers Employed in Protecting Against Illegal Trawling, *Mar. 18*, 484, 485.
  Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 744, 745–746.
  House of Lords Lift, use Made of, Wages of Attendant, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1815.
  Judges—Allowances on Circuit, *Mar. 18*, 466; *Mar. 25*, 1503.
  Moray Firth, Trawling in
    Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 18*, 571–574.
    Number of Vessels observed since March 2nd, *Mar. 14*, 249.
  Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 254.
  Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 742–743.

Morton, Mr. A. C.—*cont.*
  Trawling
    Cases Reported from Scottish Stations, *Mar. 18*, 479.
    "Endeavour." Damage done to, outside Wick Harbour, by Trawler "Campania," *Mar. 27*, 1822, 1823.
    Protection of Fishery Grounds, Inadequate Nature of, *Mar, 18*, 573.
  Unemployed Grant, Scottish Share of, *Mar. 18*, 488.

Motors
  Omnibuses—Obstruction Caused by Breakdown in Congested Districts in London.
    Q. Mr. Burnyeat; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 20–21*, 824.

Mount Pleasant
  Grazing Farms, Apportionment of, by Mr. P. Joyce.
    Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1775, 1776.

Mountshannon Estate
  Reinstatement Claims of Evicted Tenants, Decision as to.
    Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1461, 1462.

Mullingar
  Rural District Council Letter to Local Government Board, Purport of, and Reply to.
    Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 863, 864.
  Telephone Extension to, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 19*, 644.

Municipal Milk Depots Bill
  c. 1R.*. *Mar 26*, 1675.

Muntz, Sir P. A. [Warwickshire, Tamworth]
  National Physical Laboratory Inquiry—Terms of Reference, etc., of Committee, *Mar. 20–21*, 832.

Murphy, Mr. J. [Kerry, E.]
  Education, Ireland
    National School Teachers
      Civil Rights of, Amendment of Rules as to, *Mar. 27*, 1827.
      Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1394–1397.
      Diplomas, System of Awarding, *Mar. 26*, 1663.
      No. 5735, Case of—Outside Work Permitted to Teachers, *Mar. 25*, 1463.
      Salaries, Comparison of Scale with that in England and Scotland, etc., *Mar. 24*, 1394.
      Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1392–1398.

[*cont.*

Murphy, Mr. J.—*cont.*
Education, Ireland—*cont.*
Report of Commissioners of National Education — Tabling, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1826.
Schools Maintenance, Funds Available for, *Mar. 27*, 1826.
Education, Scotland — Roman Catholic Teachers' Pension Rights Under the Bill, *Mar. 27*, 1822.
House of Commons Postal Staff—Payment for Work During Prolonged or Extra Sittings, *Mar. 27*, 1788.
Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23*, 1394.
Yorkshire—Criminal Statistics for East Riding, *Mar. 25*, 1504.

Myer, Mr. H. [Lambeth, N.]
Army—Second Line, Uniform, Pay, and Allowances for, *Mar. 20-21*, 841, 842 ; *Mar. 25*, 1487.
Post Office Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool, Contract for, *Mar. 20–21*, 859, 860.
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 15*, 380.

Natal
British Indians, Trading Rights of—Cases of Refusal to renew Licences, etc.
Q. Dr. Rutherford ; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 456.
Q. Dr. Rutherford ; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19*, 641.
Q. Mr. Alden ; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 19*, 656.
Dinizulu's Action against his Late Secretary, Reason for Adjournment of.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson ; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1493.
Indians engaged to Work on Benguelea Railway, Reason for Detention of.
Q. Mr. Rees ; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1495.
Native Rising, Treatment of Natives.
Os. Mr. Mackarness, *Mar. 18*, 514.

National Debt Office
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

National Gallery
Photographs and Reproductions of Pictures, Sale of.
Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. C. Money ; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 670, 671.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

National Gallery, Ireland
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

National Gallery, Scotland
Annual Report Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1453 ; *Mar. 26*, 1618.

National Gallery, Scotland—*cont.*
Board of Trustees, Decision as to.
Qs. Mr. Weir ; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 41, 42 ; *Mar. 20*, 860, 861 ; *Mar. 26*, 1660.
Report Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1618.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

National Physical Laboratory
Inquiry—Appointment and Terms of Reference of Treasury Committee.
Qs. Sir P. Muntz ; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20*, 832, 833.
Qs. Mr. Nield ; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22*, 1293, 1294.
Date of issuing Report.
Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon ; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 14*, 230.
Work of—Grants received, etc.
Qs. Sir W. Evans - Gordon, Mr. C. Money ; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 26*, 1655–1657.

National Portrait Gallery
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865
Order in Council approving Admiralty Memorial, Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1619, 1621.

Navigation Conference
See under Colonial Conference.

Navy
First Lord—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Financial Secretary—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.
Artificers, Changes in Duties and Training of.
Os. Mr. C. Duncan, *Mar. 14*, 274–276 ; Mr. Lambert, 292.
"Barfleur," Captains appointed to, etc., during last twenty-four Months.
Q. Mr. Bellairs ; *A.* Mr. Robertson, *Mar. 19*, 652, 653.
Battleships (*see also subheadings*, Names of Ships)
Arrangements for flooding Magazine when in Dock.
Q. Mr. H. J. Craig ; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 22*, 1270.
Collisions and Groundings, Increase in Number of.
Os. Mr. Bellairs, *Mar. 14*, 261 ; Mr. Lupton, 290 ; Mr. Lambert, 291.
Canteen System, Inquiry into.
Os. Mr. J. H. Wilson, *Mar. 14*, 300.

[*cont.*

Navy—*cont.*
Cap Ribbons, Tenders for—Loss involved by Price paid, etc.
Qs. Mr. Bowles; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 14*, 216.

Carpenter Warrant Officers, Decision as to.
Os. Mr. Bramsdon, *Mar. 14*, 269.

Casualties to Ships—Statistics for 1905–6, and Causes of.
Q. Capt. Hervey; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27*, 1782.

Chatham Dockyard, Programme of Work in—Inquiry proposed.
Q. Mr. E. H. Lamb; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 15*, 338.

Distribution of Fleets—Proposals for replacing Vessels requiring Extensive Refits.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 14*, 215; *Mar. 19*, 653.

Dockyards (*see also subheadings*, Names of Dockyards).
Writers, Reply to Petitions from.
Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 14*, 210.

"Dreadnought,"—Cost of Armament.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 25*, 1484, 1485.

Education and Training—Interchangeability Scheme.
Os. Mr. Bellairs, *Mar. 14*, 261, 262; Mr. Lambert, 291.

Expenditure — Statement as to Great Britain and certain Foreign Countries (1907–8).
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 18*, 416, 418.

Explosives

Composition of.
Q. Mr. P. W. Wilson; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 22*, 1270, 1271.

Mercuric Chloride, Decision as to use of.
Q. Viscount Helmsley; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 25*, 1484.

Gun Reserve, Information as to.
Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. S. Roberts; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 25*, 1482, 1483.

Home Fleet, Constitution and Distribution of.
Os. Mr. A. Lee, *Mar. 14*, 257, 258.

Commander-in-Chief — Potential Absence on Duty under New Arrangements.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs, Mr. A. Lee; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 14*, 215, 216.

Navy—*cont.*
Home Fleet—*cont.*
Composition of Nucleus Crews in Portsmouth and Devonport Divisions.
Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 23*, 1370.

Effect of, on striking Strength of the Navy.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18*, 451.

Employment of Boys in.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 14*, 215.

Fifth Cruiser Squadron, Duties of.
Os. Mr. A. Lee, *Mar. 14*, 259.

Nore Division, Policy as to.
Os. Mr. A. Lee, *Mar. 14*, 258.

"Invincible," Class Cruisers, Cost of and Date of Completion.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 23*, 1371.

Irish Contribution to, and Total Value of Contracts placed in Ireland.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27*, 1781.

Libraries, Books, etc., Ordered for, in 1906.
Q. Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27*, 1769.

Marines, Royal, *see that title.*

Medical Treatment for Sailors, Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 26*, 1632, 1633.

Nucleus Crews

Proportion of Battleships with, under New Scheme.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18*, 450, 451.

Training for, etc.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 14*, 293; Mr. E. Robertson, 298, 299.

Officers, Supplementary, Duties assigned to.
Q. Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18*, 448, 449.

Personnel, Reductions in.
Os. Captain Hervey, *Mar. 14*, 262; Mr. Cobbold, 265, 266; Mr. Rees, 272; Dr. Rutherford, 276.

Plumbers and Blacksmiths, Rate of Wage paid to while at Sea.
Os. Mr. Hunt, *Mar. 14*, 289.

Portsmouth Dockyard.
Ashes, Contract for Removal of—Provisions of Contract.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18*, 449, 450.

Electrical Department, Ventilation of.
Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 19*, 658, 659.

[*cont.*

Navy—*cont.*

Prizes, Reason for Reduction in Estimate for and Omission of printed Table.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27,* 1780.

"Renown," Cost of Alterations to, Vote on which charged, etc.
Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27,* 1769.

Repairing Stations—Facilities afforded on East and West Coasts.
Q. Mr. C. Duncan; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 13,* 23.

Repairs, Policy as to.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 14,* 293. 294; Mr. E. Robertson, 299.

Reserve of Guns and Ammunition, Assurance as to limit in Reduction of.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs, Mr. A. Lee; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 19,* 651, 652.

Reserve, Royal Naval—Policy with regard to.
Os. Mr. J. H. Wilson, *Mar. 14,* 282, 283.

Rosyth Base

Number of Men Employed at, Aggregate Weekly Wage, etc.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 27,* 1792.

Preliminary Works, Date of Completion.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 27,* 1792.

Seamen

Kit, Provision of free of Cost, proposed.
Os. Mr. Bramsdon, *Mar. 14,* 269; Mr. Lambert, 292.

Wages, Rate of.
Os. Mr. T. H. Wilson, *Mar. 14,* 300.

Shipbuilding Programme, Decision as to—Maintenance of Two-Power Standard, etc.
Qs. Mr. Lupton, Mr. King; *As.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18,* 450.

Shipwrights and Coopers, Reason for Reduction in Number of.
Os. Captain Hervey, *Mar. 14,* 262, 263; Mr. Lambert, 291.

Short or Special Service Men, Conditions of Employment.
Os. Mr. Bramsdon, *Mar. 14,* 269, 270; Mr. Lambert, 292.

Shottes Boys' Training Establishment—Allocation of Contract for Additional Building.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 18,* 449, 450.

Simon's Bay—Dockyard Extension, Reason for Reduction in Estimated Cost of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27,* 1781.

Navy—*cont.*

Stokers

Changes in Duties and Training of.
Os. Mr. G. C. Marks, *Mar. 14,* 263–265; Sir F. Banbury, 267, 268; Mr. Lambert, 291.

Wages, Rate of.
Os. Mr. J. H. Wilson, *Mar. 14,* 300.

Strength of.
Os. Mr. T. M. Robertson, *Mar. 14,* 285–289; Mr. Hunt, 289; Mr. Lupton, 289; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 294, 295.

Two Years Commission System, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 14,* 215.

Vessels Struck off the Effective List since 1904 (Great Britain and Certain Foreign Countries).
Q. Mr. M. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 25,* 1482.

Navy Estimates

Coal Storage Item, Reason for Reduction of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 27,* 1791.

Report Stage, Rule as to Course of Discussion on.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 14,* 259, 260; Mr. Speaker, Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. A. Lee, 260.

Sea and Coastguard Service (£128,000), *Rep. Mar. 14,* 257.

Surplus on One Vote Applied to Meet Deficit on Another Vote

Objection to System, etc.
Qs. Mr. Bowles; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 14,* 229, 230.

Treasury Minute Presented, *Mar. 22,* 1264.

Vote 9, Guns Provided for Under.
Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 23,* 1370.

Wages of Officers and Seamen, Etc.—£6,869,700, *Rep., Mar. 14,* 257.

Ness, Loch

Salmon Fishery Rights of the Public.
Qs. Mr. J. Dewar; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26,* 1661.

New Bridge

Breakwater, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. O'Doherty; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 58.

New Caledonia

Penal Settlement, Australasian Protests Against—Representations to French Government.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20,* 846, 847.
Qs. Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26,* 1641.

New Forest
Turbary Rights of Mr. H. Taylor, Decision as to.
Q. Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18*, 435.

New Hebrides
Convention
Expenditure in Connection with.
Qs. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 13*, 28; *Mar. 19*, 656.
Modification, Possibility of.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 460, 461.
Provisions of.
Os. Mr. Mackarness, *Mar. 18*, 512–514.
Native Fitness for Work.
Qs. Mr. Fell; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1635, 1636.
Native Labour
Recruitment of Females for New Caledonia, Regulations for.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 459.
Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26*, 1636, 1637.
Wages, Rate of.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Sir G. Parker, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 459–461.

New Quay
Police Force—Charges against Sergeant Crummy and Constable O'Shea.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 212.

Newbury
Railway Station, Necessity for Improving.
Q. Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25*, 1510.

Newcastle West
Postal Facilities, Improvement of.
Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13*, 65.

Newfoundland
Fisheries—*Modus vivendi* with United States
Circumstances of Granting—Statute Law of the Colony Over-ridden, alleged.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 498–500; Mr. Churchill, 499; Mr. Ashley, 502–505; Earl Percy, 506–512, 542, 543; Mr. Lyttelton, 527–532; Mr. Churchill, 539–547; Sir W. Robson, 547–552; Lord R. Cecil, 552.

Newfoundland—*cont.*
Fisheries, etc.—*cont.*
History of the Dispute.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *Mar. 18*, 495–500; Mr. Ashley, 501; Mr. Lyttelton, 526; Mr. Churchill, 540.

Newport
Unemployed in—Refusal of Grant by the Local Government Board.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Mar. 27*, 1859; Mr. Burns, 1875.

Newquay and District Water Bill
l. 3R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 637.

Newspapers
Misrepresentations by — Legislation to Facilitate Punishment of Persons Responsible, proposed.
Q. Mr. Cleland; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 27*, 1789.

Newtowncashel
Magistrate, Appointment of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 19*, 646, 647.

Nicholson, Mr. C. N. [Yorks, W.R., Doncaster]
Doncaster Land Tax Commissioner, Mr. M. Donson—Reason for Failure of Clerk to Notify Appointment, *Mar. 27*, 1817.

Nicholson, Mr. W. G. [Hants, Petersfield]
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 400.

Nield, Mr. H. [Middlesex, Ealing]
Land Purchase—Delay in dealing with Cases, *Mar. 14*, 211; *Mar. 27*, 1770.
National Physical Laboratory Inquiry—Constitution and Terms of Reference of Committee, *Mar. 22*, 1293.
Navy
Estimates—Guns Provided for under Vote 9, *Mar. 23*, 1370.
Home Fleet—Composition of Nucleus Crews, *Mar. 23*, 1370.
"Renown," Cost of Alterations to Vote on which charged, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1769.

Nigeria
Railway Extension, proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Lyell; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 20*, 845.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26*, 1638, 1639.
Ubaikwam, Police Outrages at—Measures, proposed to prevent similar occurrences, etc.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 455, 456.

Nolan, Mr. J. [Louth, S.]
- Crimelessness of Ireland, alleged, *Mar. 13,* 129.
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act 1887, Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 128–133.

Norman, Sir Henry [Wolverhampton, S.]
- Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22,* 1324–1332.

North Sea Fisheries Investigation
- Expenditure on.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 26,* 1657.

North Staffordshire Railway Bill
- *c. Rep.* Mar. 14,* 187.

Northumberland
- Polling Districts in Tyneside and Wansbeck Divisions—Order Altering Presented, *Mar. 20,* 784, 820.

Norwood
- Poor Law School—Number of Children Suffering from Diptheria, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough.
  - *Q.* Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27,* 1811.

Nurses' Registration Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Mar. 14,* 256.

O'Brien, Mr. K. E. [Tipperary, Mid]
- Barry Estate, Sale of—Interest Payable, etc., *Mar. 22,* 1301.
- Bourney Untenanted Lands, Purchase of, proposed, *Mar. 18,* 446, 447.
- Corbally—Purchase of Miss Griffith's Land, *Mar. 19,* 643.
- Killenaule—Charges against P. Stokes, *Mar. 26,* 1623.
- Langley Estate—Reinstatement Claims of M. Morriss and E. Kealy, *Mar. 27,* 1774.
- Roscrea Housing Scheme, Reason for Refusing Sanction to, *Mar. 26,* 1631.

O'Brien, Mr. P. [Kilkenny]
- Roscommon, Condition of—Report of Police, etc., *Mar. 26,* 1670.

O'Connor, Mr. James [Wicklow, W.]
- Belfast Liquor Licences
  - Duty Paid by Licensed Traders (1905 and 1906), *Mar. 14,* 193.
  - Statistics, as to, *Mar. 25,* 1455.
- Caldercruix Post Office Accommodation, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 13,* 13.
- Dublin Postmen, Reply to Memorial from, *Mar. 13,* 14.
- Education Board—Successor to Late Judge Carton, *Mar. 18,* 447.
- Imaal Camp. System of Supply of Hay to, *Mar. 18,* 430.

O'Connor, Mr. John [Kildare, N.]
- Drainage, Arterial, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14,* 213.
- Education, England—Grant of £100,000, Circumstances of Granting, *Mar. 23,* 1377.
- Education, Ireland
  - Building Plans and Grants, Proposals as to, *Mar. 23,* 1381.
  - Development Fund, Amount allocated from, *Mar. 23,* 1377–1381.
  - Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1373–1392, 1448.
  - Schools, Insanitary Condition of, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1383.
  - Teachers
    - Conditions of Service, Regulations as to Promotion, Pensions, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1386–1388.
    - Salaries, Comparison of Scale with that paid in England and Scotland, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1384–1386.
- Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools, Granting Facilities for, *Mar. 23,* 1388–1391.

O'Doherty, Mr. P. [Donegal, N.]
- Donegal
  - Harbour and Fishing Accommodation, Proposals for Improving, *Mar. 13,* 59.
  - Postal Facilities in certain Places, Improvement of, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 65.
- Estate Duty Offices—Appointment of Solicitor, *Mar. 18,* 439.
- Londonderry, Postal Facilities in certain Places, Improvements of, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 65.
- New Bridge Breakwater, Decision as to *Mar. 13,* 58.

O'Donnell, Mr. C. J. [Newington, Walworth]
- India—Dacca, Nawab of—Embarrassed Condition of Estate, etc., *Mar. 14,* 195.
- India Office—Deputations as to certain Grievances, *Mar. 14,* 194.

O'Donnell, Mr. T. [Kerry, W.]
- Beale Schoolmaster—Salary of Mr. Beasley, *Mar. 13,* 53.
- Education
  - Christian Brothers' Schools, Pupils in and Grants to, *Mar. 14,* 196.
  - Grants
    - Comparison with Great Britain, *Mar. 13,* 62.
    - Equivalent Grant, Amount of, *Mar. 14,* 197.
    - Intermediate Grant, Amount of, *Mar. 14,* 196.

[*cont.*

O'Donnell, Mr. T.—*cont.*
Irish Language, Teaching in Schools—Rule as to Appointment of Teachers in Irish-speaking Districts, *Mar. 14*, 195.

O'Dowd, Mr. J. [Sligo, S.]
Customs Clerks
Classification and Salaries of, *Mar. 14*, 209.
Statistical Department Assistant Clerks (New Class), Memorials from, *Mar. 14*, 209.
Tubbercurry Potato Crop, Condition of, *Mar. 20–21*, 869.

O'Dwyer Estate
Annual Rental, Sale Price, etc.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1475.

O'Grady, Mr. J. [Leeds, E.]
Apprentices, Indenture of—Amendment of Law, proposed, *Mar. 20–21*, 860.
India
Administration—Speech by Sir A. Fraser, *Mar. 14*, 194.
Allahabad—Case of Mr. Jotindranath Sen, *Mar. 20–21*, 843.
Comilla Disturbance, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 653.
Leeds Post Office Learners, Appointment of—Overtime of Sorting Staff, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1654.
Taxation—*Status* of Surveyor's Clerks, *Mar. 19*, 670.
Ware German Farm Colony—Information given in Report, etc., *Mar. 14*, 233.
Washburn Valley Afforestation—Conditions of Employment of Men, *Mar. 19*, 662–664; *Mar. 27*, 1808.

O'Kelly, Mr. J. [Roscommon, N.]
Crofton Estate Grass Lands, Disposal of, *Mar. 26*, 1665.

O'Malley, Mr. W. [Galway, Connemara]
Oughterard—Cause of Typhus Fever Outbreak, *Mar. 22*, 1283.

O'Shaughnessy, Mr. P. J. [Limerick, W.]
Abbeyfeale Railway Premises, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 25*, 1481; *Mar. 27*, 1787.
County Courts, Irish — Ages of Land Valuers, *Mar. 13*, 56.
Delmege Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Windle, *Mar. 14*, 190.
Douglas Estate—Case of Mrs. K. Scanlan, *Mar. 13*, 56.
Kerry Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 25*, 1522.
Limerick, Condition of—Remarks of Mr. Justice Johnson, *Mar. 13*, 56.
Newcastle West Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 13*, 65.

O'Shee, Mr. J. J. [Waterford, W.]
Dungarvan, Telephone Extension to, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1467.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill
l. 2R.* *Mar. 13*, 3.

Old-age Pensions
Exchequer Contribution, Suggestion for determining Amount of.
Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 14*, 228.
Scheme, Proposals for Introducing.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 18*, 463.

Omnibuses
Tickets
Details shown on.
Q. Mr. Stanger; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26*, 1646.
Inspection of and Legality of Payment of Fares in Advance.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26*, 1647.

Onslow, Earl of
Amendments, Method of Tabling, *Mar. 19*, 613.
Baines' Name Bill, 2R., *Mar. 13*, 3; *Com.*, *Mar. 14*, 162.
Byrne's Divorce Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 19*, 598.
Chairman and Speaker of House of Lords, Increasing Powers of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 609, 610.
Electric Supply Bills, Consolidation of, *Mar. 19*, 597.
Procedure in Debate—Appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry into Standing Orders relating to, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 608–614.
Putting the Question, Methods adopted, *Mar. 19*, 612, 613.
Sheffield Corporation Bill, 2R., *Mar. 20*, 783.

Open Spaces
Crown Lands, Power to make Free Gifts of.
Q. Mr. Vivian; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22*, 1274.

Opium Traffic
Asiatic—Commission or Conference, Proposals for.
Qs. Mr. Ellis, Mr. A. Taylor; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 850, 851.
System of, in Crown Colonies in the East, Possibility of Restricting, etc.
Os. Mr. T. Taylor, *Mar. 18*, 519–526; Mr. Churchill, 534.
Q. Mr. Ellis; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Mar. 19*, 654.

Ordnance Survey
Civil Assistants, Abatements from Pay of.
Q. Mr. ; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 26*, 1629.

Oriel College, Oxford
Statute Presented, *Mar. 20*, 821; *Mar. 21*, 1206.

Osborne
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Oughterard
Typhus Fever Outbreak, Cause of.
Q. Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1283, 1284.

Oxford and District Tramways Bill
l. Rep. Mar. 19*, 597.

Pacific Cable
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Page's Estate
Documents referring to—Investigation by Treasury, etc.
Q. Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 14*, 245.

Pakenham-Mahon Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1518.

Palaces
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Panama Canal
Trinidad Labourers, Conditions of Recruiting.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 14*, 217.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 23*, 1372.

Parish Council
Elections, Irregularities at, Revision of Proceedings, proposed.
Q. Mr. [illegible]; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 26*, 1628, 1629.

Parker, Mr. J. [Halifax]
Civil Service Boy Clerks, Appointment, etc., of (1904–1906), *Mar. 20 21*, 830.

Parker, Sir G. [Gravesend]
Africa, South—Land Settlement
- Board, Proposals as to Establishment of, *Mar. 18*, 490, 491.
- Progress made with, and Government Policy as to, *Mar. 18*, 490–494.
- Sum Allocated for, from War Contribution Loan, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 491.

Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of Effecting, *Mar. 14*, 280–282.

Army, Discharges, Number Purchased at a Cost of £10 during last Five Years, *Mar. 27*, 1793.

Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1105, 1108, 1127.

Parker, Sir G.—*cont.*
British Museum Reading-Room, Closing of—Accommodation for Students, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1828.

Canada
- Postal Rates on Newspapers and Periodicals—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1812, 1813.
- Public Industrial Company Shares held by Persons Resident in United Kingdom, *Mar. 25*, 1503.
- Tariff Negotiations with Austria and Germany, *Mar. 14*, 218, 219.

Colonial Conference, 1907
- Preference, Amendment of Shipping Laws to effect, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1492.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 490–499, 500–506.

Esher, Lord, Position and Services of, *Mar. 25*, 1487.

Gravesend Water-guard Inspector—Reasons for Appointing Naval Officer, *Mar. 27*, 1816.

Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1840, 1841.

New Caledonia Penal Settlement, Australian Protests against, *Mar. 20–21*, 847.

New Hebrides
- Convention, Possibility of Modifying, *Mar. 18*, 461.
- Native Labour—Wages, Rate of, *Mar. 18*, 460.

Newfoundland Fisheries—*Modus Vivendi*
- Circumstances of Granting—Statute Law of the Colony over-ridden by, *Mar. 18*, 498–500.
- History of the Dispute, *Mar. 18*, 495–500.

Transvaal—Chinese Labour, Policy of the Transvaal Government, *Mar. 25*, 1494.

United States, Municipal Borrowing in—Return as to Limits imposed by Law, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1801.

Parks and Pleasure Gardens
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Parliament
Dinner, Interval for, proposed.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 18*, 486.

House of Commons
- Committees, *see that title.*
- Postal Staff—Payment for Work during Prolonged or Extra Sittings
  - *Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 27*, 1788.
- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

[*cont.*

Parliament—*cont.*
House of Lords
Attendance of Peers, Increase in.
Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 602, 604.
Business
Amendments, Method of Tabling.
Os. Earl of Onslow, *Mar. 19*, 613.
Increased Volume of.
Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 603.
Deputy Speaker, Appointment of proposed.
Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 606.
Lift, Use made of, Wages of Attendant, etc.
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 27*, 1815.
Peers Sitting and Voting without having Taken the Oath, Procedure in Cases of.
Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 607, 620, 621; Earl of Crewe, 620.
Powers of Chairman and Speaker Increasing, proposed.
Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 605, 606; Earl of Onslow, 609, 610; Lord Loreburn, 619, 620.
Procedure in Debate—Appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry into Standing Orders Relating to, proposed, *Motion* [Lord Burghclere], *Mar. 19*, 600.
Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 600–608; Earl of Onslow, 608–614; Marquess of Lansdowne, 614–616; Earl of Crewe, 616–619.
Putting the Question, Methods Adopted.
Os. Earl of Onslow, *Mar. 19*, 612, 613; Earl of Crewe, 619.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.
Houses of, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.
Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Readjustment of.
Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Sir H. Bampbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 255.

"Parliamentary Debates"
Cost and Method of Reporting and Publishing—Select Committee of Inquiry, Appointed, *Mar. 26*, 1764.

Parliamentary Elections
New Members Sworn—Mr. R. J. Barry, for County of Tyrone North, *Mar. 13*, 66.
Worcester, Borough of, *see that title.*

Parliamentary Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 489.

Parliamentary Franchise
Age for, in Foreign Countries.
Q. Mr. Cox; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1466.

Parliamentary Procedure
All-night Sitting, Remuneration of Attendants for Duty during.
Q. Dr. Cooper; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25*, 1513.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Sir A. Jacoby, *Mar. 26*, 1659.
Bills, *see that title.*
Blocking Motion of Member for Barnstaple, Effect of.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Bowles, Mr. Speaker, Mr A. S. Wilson, *Mar. 25*, 1524, 1525.
Blocking Motion and Bills put on Order Paper to Prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, alleged.
Os. Mr. Bowles, *Mar, 27*, 1883–1886; Mr. A. Henderson, 1886; Mr. Asquith, 1887; Sir C. Dilke, 1888; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1889; Lord R. Cecil, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892; Mr. Morton 1890; Major Seely, 1891.
Qs. Mr. T. Taylor; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 27*, 1829, 1830.
Changes in.
Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Mar. 20*, 916, 917, 918.
Divisions—Tellers having gone before Member had Passed Lobby Door, Question as to Recording Vote.
Os. Mr. S. Wilson, Mr. Speaker, Mr. T. A. Pease, *Mar. 25*, 1607, 1608.
Notice of Motion—Rule as to Amendment, of Motion after giving Notice.
Os. Mr. J. A. Chamberlain, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 19*, 680, 681.
Session, Period for—Alteration in Present Arrangements proposed.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 20–21*, 874, 875.
Standing Orders, *see that title.*
Wednesday, 27th March, Hour of Meeting.
Q. Mr. Lane-Fox; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26*, 1673.

Parochial Medical Officers (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., *Mar. 20*, 884.
1R.* *Mar. 20*, 885.

Partington, Mr. O. [Derbyshire, High Peak]
Magistrates Appointed since 1st February, 1906, *Mar. 26*, 1623.
Volunteer adjutants—Number Holding Temporary Appointments, *Mar. 20–21*, 839.

Patent Law Amendment Bill
Introduction, Date of
Qs. Mr. Carlile, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 237.

Patents and Designs Bill
c. Intro., *Mar. 19*, 683.
1R.* *Mar. 19*, 687.

Paul, Mr. H. W. [Northampton]
British Museum Reading Room, Closing of, Provision for Accommodation of Readers, *Mar. 25*, 1470.

Police Preservation Act, Ireland.
See Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887.

Pearce, Mr. R. [Staffordshire, Leek]
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20*, 963.

Pearce, Mr. W. [Tower Hamlets, Limehouse]
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20*, 960.
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary — Metropolitan Parochial Infirmaries with Special Wards for, *Mar. 20–21*, 836.

Pease, Mr. H. P. [Darlington]
Army—Uniforms, Cost of supplying 300,000 Men with, *Mar. 27*, 1795.
Australian Preference Bill, Assent to, *Mar. 18*, 431.
Britannia Royal Naval College, Barracks at—Original Estimate of Cost, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1781.
Colonial Conference, 1907—Canadian Delegates, etc., *Mar. 15*, 339, 340.
Colonies—Definite Proposals made as to Preference, *Mar. 22*, 1291.
Edalji, G., Case of—Proposals for Inquiry, *Mar. 13*, 19.
Education Grants
New Schools, Sum voted for—Effect of Section 96 of Act of 1870, *Mar. 25*, 1523.
Special Grants, Expenditure of Sum voted for, *Mar. 18*, 422.
Training Colleges, Building Grants for, *Mar. 18*, 417.
Education, (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Teachers unemployed owing to, *Mar. 14*, 242.
Local Government Board Report (1906–7), Date of Publishing, *Mar. 14*, 207.
Navy—Coal Storage Expenditure, Reason for Reduction of, *Mar. 27*, 1791.
Parliament—Interval for Dinner proposed *Mar. 18*, 486.

Pease, Mr. H. P.—*cont.*
Poor Law
Expenditure out of Loans during 1906, *Mar. 19*, 645.
Labour Tests Committee Report, Decision as to, *Mar. 26*, 1652.
Poplar—Cost of Hutton Schools, *Mar. 26*, 1627.
Simon's Bay, Naval Dockyard Extension—Reason for Reduction in Estimated Cost of, *Mar. 27*, 1781.
Sugar Duty—Revenue in 1906 and Date of Issue of Return as to Price, *Mar. 22*, 1278.
United States—Reservation of Shipping Trade between East and West Coasts, *Mar. 22*, 1266.

Pease, Mr. J. A.—*Lord of the Treasury* [Essex, Saffron Walden]
Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 15*, 403.
Divisions—Tellers having gone before Member had passed Lobby Door, Question as to recording Vote, *Mar. 25*, 1607.
Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 15*, 404.

Penal Servitude Acts, 1853–1891
Conditional Licences Presented, *Mar. 20*, 784, 820.

Pentonville Prison
Warders, Reason for Transfer of.
Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18*, 468.

Percy, Earl [Kensington, S.]
Fund Consolidated (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 506, 512, 541, 542, 543.
Newfoundland Fisheries—*Modus vivendi*, Circumstances of granting—Statute Law of the Colony over-ridden, *Mar. 18*, 506–512, 542, 543.
Standing Committees, referring Bills to, Motion for, Proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1698, 1699.

Perks, Mr. R. W. [Lincolnshire, South]
London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 775, 776.

Persia
British Legation and Consulates, Protection of—Russian Troops sent to guard Russian Legation, etc.
Q. Mr. Lynch; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 849.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22*, 1265, 1266.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 27*, 1802.

[*cont.*

Persia—*cont.*
Frontier Dispute with Turkey, *see under* Turkey.
Mineral Oil Concession, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22,* 1265.
Trade Report Presented, *Mar. 26,* 1617.
Yezd—Nationality of murdered Parsee Merchant.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 18,* 432.

Persian Gulf
British Interests in, Necessity for adequate safeguarding of.
Os. Mr. Rees, *Mar. 14,* 270.

Peterhead Harbour
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Pett
Public House Licence, Transfer of.
Q. Mr. Gibb; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 20–21,* 822.

Philipps, Lieut.-Colonel I. [Southampton]
Post Office Mail Service—American Mails carried by White Star Line, *Mar. 13,* 13.

Philipps, Mr. O. C. [Pembroke and Haverfordwest]
Post Office Mail Service—Letters, etc., sent to Australia during 1906, *Mar. 22,* 1297.

Pickersgill, Mr. E. H. [Bethnal Green, S.W.]
Cheltenham Ladies College, Students, Conditions of Admitting—Case of Miss James, *Mar. 13,* 94.
Debt, Commitments to Prison for—Increase in Number of, Restriction of Present Powers, proposed, *Mar. 20,* 936–938.
Education
Scholarships Scheme, Working of, *Mar. 13,* 93, 94.
Secondary Education
Policy as to, Criticisms on, *Mar. 13,* 91–95.
Report of Consultative Committee, Terms of, *Mar. 13,* 92.
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20,* 962.

Piers and Harbours
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Pirie, Mr. D. O. [Aberdeen, N.]
Aberdeen
Stranding of Vessels—Proposals as to Inquiries, *Mar. 25,* 1468.
Woodside and Killybrewster Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 239.

Pirie, Mr. D. O.—*cont.*
Agriculture, Scientific Research—Departmental Committee, Reason for Exclusion of Scotland, from Terms of Reference, *Mar. 27,* 1820.
Dunkeld Right of Way Case, Cost of—Proposals for Amendment of Law, *Mar. 14,* 248.
Ecclesiastical Assessments, Proposals for Abolishing, *Mar. 13,* 40.
Moray Firth, Trawling in
Proposals for Dealing with Matter, *Mar. 13,* 43.
Rewards Offered for Information, *Mar. 19,* 673.
Standing Committees
Increase in Number of—Referring all Bills to, unless otherwise ordered, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1560–1562.
Scottish Committee, Proposals as to Establishing, *Mar. 25.* 1561, 1562.

Plunketstown
Stynes, Garret, Cost of.
Q. Mr. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 871.

Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill
c. Rep. Mar. 22,* 1263.
Con. Mar. 27,* 1765.

Police
Civil Services of the Crown, Reason for Exclusion from.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26,* 1646.
Houses of Parliament, Extra Pay, for Duty at.
Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18,* 468.
Q. Mr. Walrond; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 22,* 1299.
Metropolitan
Holiday, Extension of, in Lieu of Weekly Day of Rest, proposed.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14,* 231, 232.
Libraries of M. Division, Information as to.
Qs. Dr. Cooper; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26.* 1650, 1651.
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Police Courts, Metropolitan
Statements as to Fees, Fines, etc., Due to Local Authorities under certain Acts, Periodical Furnishing of, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 19.* 659, 660.

Political Pensions Bill
Com., 2R., *Mar. 15,* 404.

Polling Districts
[*For* particular places, *see their names.*]

Ponsonby Estate
Reinstatement Claim of Mr. E. Flavin.
Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 442.

Poor Law
Administration in London, Cost of.
Q. Mr. Haddock; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22*, 1295.
Children
Boarding-out with Institutions such as Dr. Barnardo's Homes, proposed.
Qs. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27*, 1811, 1812.
Illegitimate—Registration of Births in Workhouses, etc.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 234, 235.
Cost of Paupers in London and Provinces.
Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 20–21*, 837.
Expenditure out of Loans during 1906.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19*, 645.
Filial Liability of Married Daughters—Proposals for Amendment of Law.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18*, 437, 438.
Ireland—Charges against Officials—Defrayment of Costs of Legal Assistance.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1629, 1630.
Labour Tests Committee Report, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 26*, 1652.
Married Applicants, Conditions of Supplying Medical Relief to.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22*, 1295.
Relief Statistics for 1835.
Q. Mr. Haddock; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 25*, 1466.
Scotland
Medical Assistance—Powers of Local Government Board.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26*, 1660, 1661.
Poorhouse Medical Officers, Dismissals of.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 482.
Reason for Dismissal of Dr. G. Duncan.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 481.
Workhouses, *see that title.*

Poplar
Hutton Schools, Cost of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 26*, 1627.

Portmahomack
Harbour, Condition of—Suggestion for Improvement, etc.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 480.

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill
l. 3R.* *Mar. 18*, 407.

Portsmouth
Admiralty Coal supplied to Russian Ships, Instructions as to.
Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 27*, 1785.
Dockyard, *see under* Navy.

Portsmouth, Earl of—*Under Secretary of State for War.*
Militia
Recruiting for the Line through, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1238.
Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21*, 1233–1240.
Transfer and Training for Territorial Army, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1234, 1235.
Nucleus Battalions, Conditions of Joining by Militiamen, *Mar. 21*, 1233, 1234.
Territorial Army, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1233–1240.
Memorandum Explanatory of, Issue of, proposed, *Mar. 21*, 1236.

Portugal
Import Duty on Fish, proposed Increase of—Result of Representations.
Q. Mr. Esslemont; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 29.

Post Office
Postmaster-General (Rt. Hon. S. Buxton).
See also Names of Places.
Foreign and Colonial Post Amendment (No. 15) Warrant, 1907—Copy Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1453; *Mar. 26*, 1617, 1618.
Letters, Addresses Hired for Receipt of—Frauds Perpetrated and Proposals for Regulating Matter.
Q. Mr. Fenwick; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14*, 240.
Licensed Premises, Regulations as to Residence of Employees on.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 20–21*, 858.
Mail Cart Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of—Scope of Inquiry.
Q. Mr. Seddon; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14*, 208.

[*cont.*

Post Office—*cont.*
- Mail Service
  - American
    - Decision as to Port of Arrival.
      - *Q.* Mr. E. Griffith; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 25,* 1466, 1467.
    - Information as to Mails brought by White Star Line.
      - *Qs.* Col. Philipps; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13,* 13.
  - Australasian
    - Letters, Postcards and Parcels sent to during 1906.
      - *Qs.* Mr. O. C. Philipps; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 22,* 1297, 1298.
    - Payment for Carriage of.
      - *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 26,* 1628.
  - Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Objections to Renewal of.
    - *Os.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Cox, Mr. Speaker, Mr. G. Whiteley, *Mar. 26,* 1673, 1674; Mr. H. Cox, *Mar. 27,* 1831–1836, 1849, 1850; Mr. Runciman, 1836–1840, 1846, 1849, 1850; Sir G. Parker, 1840–1841; Mr. Ridsdale, 1841–1843; Mr. A. Taylor, 1843–1845; Mr. Herbert, 1845; Mr. Harwood, 1846; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1847; Mr. Lyttelton, 1847; Mr. E. Cecil, 1848; Mr. Seaverns, 1850; Mr. Guest, 1850.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Myer, Mr. Cox; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 20,* 859, 860.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Cox; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 23,* 1368, 1369.
  - New Zealand Arrangements, Routes for.
    - *Q.* Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14,* 241.
  - South African Mails, Date of Departure and Arrival of—Revision of Arrangements proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 20–21,* 858.
- Newspapers, Scale of Charges for.
  - *Q.* Mr. E. Davies; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 26,* 1624.
- Postage on Periodicals, etc., sent to Canada.
  - *Qs.* Mr. W. Priestley, Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14,* 241, 242.
  - *Qs.* Mr. H. Heaton, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 27,* 1812, 1813.

Post Office—*cont.*
- Rules for Head-Postmasters, etc., Access of Officials to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13,* 39.
- Societies' Journals, Reduction of Postage on, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. E. Price; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13,* 38, 39.
- Stamps, Automatic Machines for Supply of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Liddell; *As.* Mr. Buxton. *Mar. 26,* 1653, 1654.
- Uniform Contracts, Information as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Wiles; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 18,* 420, 421.
- Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 70.

Post Office Savings' Bank
- Application of Funds for Erection of Houses for the Working Classes, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Money; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 26,* 1645.
- Insurance through, in respect of Workmen's Compensation—Date of Report of Farrer Committee.
  - *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 27,* 1788.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. S. Buxton, *Mar. 27,* 1813.
- Investment in Irish Land Stock, proposed.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Vivian; Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 26,* 1644, 1645.
- Irish Business, Transfer of, to Ireland proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 19,* 679.
- Liabilities to Depositors—Date of presenting Statement.
  - *Q.* Mr. G. H. Faber; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 22,* 1279.

Posseckstown
- Reinstatement Claim of Miss M. M. Clarke.
  - *Q.* Mr. P. White; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21,* 822, 823.

Potatoes
- Irish Crop, Failure of—Relief Measures, Distribution of Potato Seed, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1772, 1773.

Potteries
- Lead Poisoning, Increase in Cases of—Inquiry proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Jowett; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 22,* 1298.

Powell, Sir F. S. [Wigan]
- Standing Committees, Referring Bills to
  - Bills having passed a Second Reading, by a Majority of more than two-thirds to be sent to Grand Committee, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1601.
  - Motion for referring Bills to, proposed Procedure as to, *Mar. 26,* 1686, 1699.

[*cont.*

Powell, Sir F. S.—*cont.*
Standing Committees—*cont.*
Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was Responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1592.

President of the Board of Agriculture
Rt. Hon. Earl of Carrington.

President of the Board of Education
Rt. Hon. R. McKenna.

President of the Board of Trade
Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.

President of the Local Government Board
Rt. Hon. J. Burns.

Price, Mr. C. E. [Edinburgh, Central]
Belgium—Staff of Consul-General in Antwerp, *Mar. 14*, 225.
Elliot Junction Railway Accident
Penalty to be imposed on Company for Lax State of Affairs, *Mar. 19*, 666.
Revision of Sentence on Gourlay, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1517.
Income-Tax—Non-Payments in 1905–6, *Mar. 14*, 228.
Postage on Societies' Journals, Reduction of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 38.

Priestley, Mr. W. E. B. [Bradford, E.]
Postage on Periodicals, etc., sent to Canada, *Mar. 14*, 241.

Prisons
See also names of places.
Dietary, Labour and Conditions of Imprisonment, Rules as to.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18*, 433.
Ireland—Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.
Prisoners Confined for over Twenty Years, Information as to.
Q. Sir W. Bull; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 22*, 1299.
Scotland—Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Privy Council
Judicial Attendance at Meetings in England and Ireland, Functions of Council, etc.
Qs. Mr. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1282, 1283.

Privy Council Office
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Probation of Offenders Bill
c. Order for Second Reading Read, and Bill Withdrawn, *Mar. 18*, 582.

Probation of Offenders (No. 2) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 682.

Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies Bill
l. 1R.* *Mar. 13*, 4.

Public Accounts Committee
Report, Opportunity for Discussing.
Q. Mr. A. Chamberlain; *A.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 216.
Qs. Mr. J. A. Chamberlain; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 18*, 486, 487.

Public Petitions Committee
Report Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1527.

Public Rights of Way Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 25*, 1528.

Questions.
Arguing, not Permissible, *Mar. 12*, 35.
Information May not be Given in, *Mar. 25*, 1494.
Irrelevant, *Mar. 19*, 675.
Notice to be Given of, *Mar. 13*, 43; *Mar. 19*, 665; *Mar. 25*, 1492.
Question Involving Figures, Notice Must be Given of, *Mar. 27*, 1805.
Supplementary, Notice to be Given of, *Mar. 27*, 1830.

Radford, Mr. G. H. [Islington, E.]
British Museum Reading Room, Closing of—Accommodation for Readers, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1655.
Supreme Court—Closing on August Bank Holiday, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1514.

Radio-Telegraphic Convention
See under Wireless Telegraphy

Railway and Canal Traffic Acts
Report, Presented, *Mar. 14*, 163, 189.

Railways
Accidents
Procedure in Arrest of Officials.
Q. Mr. Bell; *A.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Mar. 25*, 1517.
Returns Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1767.
Baker Street and Waterloo Trains, Overcrowding.
Q. Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 19*, 648.
Clerks, Extension of Hours Act to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 237.
Combination of Companies, Development of—Tabling Correspondence, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Edwards; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 25*, 1511.
Complaints Against Companies received in, 1904, 1905, and 1906.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 20–21*, 853, 854.
Furniture, Carriage charged on
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 12*, 36.

[*cont.*

Railways—*cont.*
Goods Carried at Owner's Risk, Allegations as to Rejection of Claims upon.
Q. Mr. Levy; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 20–21*, 854.
Great Eastern Cheap Tickets to Discharged Workmen from Government Factories, Date of Issuing.
Q. Mr. Branch; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 22*, 1269.
Hours of Labour—Returns, Form of, and Information given in.
Q. Mr. Hudson; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 239.
Ireland
Great Northern Company Motor Trains, Second-Class Accommodation in.
Q. Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13*, 20.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.
London and North Western Subscription to Municipal Society, *see* London Municipal Society.
Payment of Interest Out of Capital During Construction of New Lines—Amendment of Standing Order, 167.
Os. Mr. Emmott, *Mar. 14*, 312–314; Sir F. Banbury, 314–316; Captain Craig, 316–319; Mr. Gordon, 319; Mr. Lupton, 320.
Rates, proposals for Settling Grievances as to.
Q. Mr. Ferens; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 18*, 473.
Qs. Mr. Montagu; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George *Mar. 27*, 1806, 1807.
Rebates on Traffic, etc., Arrangements for—Copy of Correspondence with Board of Trade Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1452; *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Railways (Contracts) Bill
c. 2R., *Mar. 15*, 344.
Report from Standing Committee on Trade, *Mar. 25*, 1526.

Railways, Mines, Canals, &c., Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 25*, 1527.

Ramsey, Lord de
Allotment Holders Given Notice to Quit—Number for whom Allotments have been found, etc.
Qs. Mr. Allen, Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar 25*, 1512

Randles, Sir J. [Cumberland, Cockermouth]
Africa, East—Agricultural Possibilities of British Protectorate, *Mar. 14*, 207.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 986.
Education Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20*, 986.

Rates and Rating
Assessment of Licensed Premises, System of.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18*, 471.

Rates and Rating—*cont.*
Metropolitan
Necessity for Equalisation of.
Os. Mr. Crooks, *Mar. 20*, 944–948; Mr. Dickinson, 948–951; Sir F. Banbury, 952, 953; Dr. Macnamara 954–958; Mr. Straus, 958–960; Mr. W. Pearce, 960: Sir W. J. Collins, 961; Mr. Stuart, 961; Dr. Cooper, 962; Mr. R. Pearce, 963; Mr. Pickersgill, 962.
Number of Persons Summoned, Number of Committals and Restraints—Return Ordered, *Mar. 20*, 821.
Non-payment in Metropolitan Boroughs—Charges for Summonses.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 13*, 31.
Poor Rate, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, etc.
Os. Mr. Bridgeman, *Mar. 26*, 1758.
Scotland
Amounts provided in 1905 and 1906, Information as to Expenditure, etc.
Q. Mr. E. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 434.
Legislation to Unify System proposed.
Q. Captain Waring; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 22*, 1271.

Ratheline
Reinstatement Claim of J. Mullooly.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 649.

Rating Appeals (Costs) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 683.

Rawlinson, Mr. J. F. P. [Cambridge University]
Consolidated Fund Appropriation Act 1905—Powers of Treasury under Section 5, *Mar. 25*, 1502.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 987.
Education
Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20*, 987.
Welsh Department, Appointments—Qualfications of Mr. Davies and Mr. O. Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13*, 103, 104.
Standing Committees, Referring Bills to. Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1713–1715.
Motion for, proposed Procedure, as to, *Mar. 26*, 1684, 1694.

Rayner, H. G.
Death Sentence on, Commutation of, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 27*, 1806.

Rea, Mr. W. R. [Scarborough]
- Dover Harbour, Poll Tax on Passengers, proposal for Raising, *Mar. 25*, 1511.
- Workhouses—Rule as to Discharge of Casual Paupers, *Mar. 26*, 1652.

Reay, Lord
- British Indians in the Colonies, Disabilities of—Bringing Question before the Colonial Conference, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 633.

Record Office
- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Record Office, Ireland
- Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Reddy, Mr. M. [King's County, Birr]
- Claremont Estate of Major Armstrong, Sale of, *Mar. 20–21*, 866.

Redmond, Mr. J. E. [Waterford]
- Business
  - Congested State of, Impossibility of Dealing with under Present System, *Mar. 20*, 916–920.
  - Course of, *Mar. 26*, 1673,
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 995, 996.
- Dunshaughlin Labourers' Cottages Scheme —Applications Rejected, *Mar. 25*, 1521.
- Education
  - Primary, Condition of—proposals for Improving and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 20*, 995, 996.
  - Report of Commissioners of National Education — Tabling, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1827.
- Judges, Powers Vested in, by Commission, *Mar. 26*, 1670.
- Standing Committees
  - Increase in Number of, Alteration in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 915–921.
  - Manning of—Statistics as so, *Mar. 20*, 919.
  - Scottish Committee, Proposals as to establishing, *Mar. 20*, 915.
- Stewartstown Disturbance, Cause of, *Mar. 27*, 1825.

Redmond, Mr. W. H. K. [Clare, E.]
- Carrick-on-Suir Convents, etc., Valuation of, *Mar. 20-21*, 873.
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, Repeal of, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 152.
- Education, Scotland — Roman Catholic Teachers' Pension Rights under the Bill, *Mar. 27*, 1822.

Redmond, Mr. W. H. K.—*cont.*
- Ennis State Inebriate Reformatory—Admissions and Discharges, *Mar. 19*, 648.
- New Quay—Charges against Sergeant Crummy and Constable O'Shea, *Mar. 14*, 212.
- Parliamentary Procedure — Period for Session, *Mar. 20–21*, 874, 875.
- Standing Committees
  - Increase in Number of, and Proposals as to referring all Bills to, unless otherwise ordered, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1565–1568.
  - Scottish Committee, Proposals as to establishing, *Mar. 25*, 1566–1568.
- Unemployed—Grant, Allocation of, *Mar. 27*, 1811.

Reenard Pier
- Decision as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Boland ; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1662.

Rees, Mr. J. D. [Montgomery Boroughs]
- Africa—Volunteer Reserves in British Protectorates, *Mar. 26*, 1634.
- Africa, East, Steamship Communication with, *Mar. 26*, 1635.
- Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of effecting, *Mar. 14*, 270–273.
- China—Amoy, Assault on British Subjects at—Compensation Claim, *Mar. 27*, 1803.
- Dangerous Performances Act, Extending to Women, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 232.
- Diplomatic Officers, Linguistic Qualifications of, *Mar. 18*, 461.
- Disinfectants, Standardisation, Proposals for, *Mar. 14*, 233.
- Egypt—General Assembly, Tabling Resolutions of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 221.
- Hague Conference—British Delegates, Instructions to, *Mar. 13*, 29 ; *Mar. 20*, 848.
- Income Tax — Assessment of Cottage Property, *Mar. 25*, 1471.
- India
  - Bengal
    - Boycott of British Goods, Effect of, *Mar. 25*, 1472.
    - Circumstances of Murder of Mr. Bloomfield, *Mar. 20–21*, 843, 844.
  - Bird Protection in—Legislative Proposals as to, *Mar. 27*, 1795.
  - Crops, Damage done to, by Wild Animals—Revision of Scale of Rewards, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1796.
  - Lahore—Sentence on Proprietor and Editor of *Panjabee*, *Mar. 13* 26.

[*cont.*

Rees, Mr. J. D.—*cont.*
India—*cont.*
Moplah Rifles—Decision as to Disbandment, *Mar. 25*, 1472.
Indigo, Synthetic—Cost of Manufacture, etc., *Mar. 18*, 440.
Natal, Indians engaged to work on Benguela Railway, Reason for Detention of, *Mar. 25*, 1495.
Navy, *Personnel*, Reduction in, *Mar. 14*, 272.
Persia—Yezd, Nationality of Murdered Parsee Merchant, *Mar. 18*, 432.
Persian Gulf, British Interests in, Necessity for Adequate Safeguarding of, *Mar. 14*, 270.
Police
Metropolitan—Extension of Holiday proposed, *Mar. 14*, 231.
Reason for excluding from Civil Services of the Crown, *Mar. 26*, 1646.
Poor Law—Filial Liability of Married Daughters, Amendment of Law, *Mar. 18*, 437.
Russian Duty on Indian Tea—Representations to Russian Government, etc., *Mar. 20–21*, 848.
Sugar Beet, Cultivation in British Isles—Tabling Papers, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 245.
Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustment, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1759–1761.
Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill—Provision of Rifle Ranges, *Mar. 22*, 1303.
Unemployed Grant—Wales, Amount given to, *Mar. 14*, 236.
Uganda Railway, Profit on Working of, *Mar. 19*, 645.
Volunteers
Bandmasters, *Status* of, *Mar. 19*, 650.
Effect of New Scheme on Service of, *Mar. 20–21*, 840.
Welsh Church, Disestablishment of—Motion for, out of Order, *Mar. 23*, 1372.
Women's Suffrage Demonstration—Prevention of Participation by Young Girls from the Provinces, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1650.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools
Ireland—Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Regent Street
Quadrant, Proposals for Rebuilding.
Q. Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1469, 1470.

Registrar-General's Office
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 63.

Registrar-General's Office, Ireland
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Registrar-General's Office, Scotland
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Regulation of Railways Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 25*, 1527.

Remnant, Mr. J. F. [Finsbury, Holborn]
Austria-Hungary—Glass and Glassware exported to United Kingdom, *Mar. 18*, 474.
Canada—Imports of Tinplates from United States during 1903–6, *Mar. 27*, 1756.
German Agricultural Machinery Imports from United Kingdom, *Mar. 18*, 474.
Slates, Welsh, German Import Duty on, *Mar. 13*, 32, 33.
Trade Markets remaining unexploited, for British Goods, *Mar. 13*, 35.
United States—Unemployment Returns for New York State, *Mar. 18*, 472, 473; *Mar. 19*, 665.
Wheat Imports into United Kingdom from Canada and United States (1904–5), *Mar. 13*, 33.

Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill
l. 2R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.

Renton, Major L. [Lincolnshire, Gainsborough]
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 381.

Revenue Buildings
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Revenue and Excise
Irish Contribution to, in 1895-6 and 1905-6. *Q.* Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 27*, 1780.

Richards, Mr. T. F. [Wolverhampton, W.]
Fiji, Forced Labour in, *Mar. 18*, 458.
Pentonville Prison Warders, Reason for Transfer of, *Mar. 18*, 468.
Police Duty at Houses of Parliament, Pay for, *Mar. 18*, 468.
Post Office Savings Bank—Insurance through in Respect of Workmen's Compensation, etc., Facilities for, *Mar. 27*, 1813.
Stock Exchange Transactions—Revenue derivable from 1 per Cent. Stamp Duty on, *Mar. 27*, 1804.

Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill
c. *Rep.** *Mar. 26*, 1621.

Ridsdale, Mr. E. A. [Brighton]
Brighton Telegraph Staff Vacancy, Proposals for Filling, *Mar. 26*, 1624.
Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1841–1843.

Rights of Way (Scotland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 682.
Bill Withdrawn, *Mar. 26*, 1621.

Rineen.
Fishery Pier at, Decision as to Construction. *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1824.

Rivers.
Prevention of Pollution of—Powers conferred by Existing Law, etc.
Q. Mr. Beale; Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 480.

Roberts, Mr. C. H. [Lincoln]
Hygiene and Temperance, Inclusion of, in Code, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 119, 120.
Licensed Premises (Election Days), Closing Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 400.
Macedonia—Financial Commission Report, Proposals as to Tabling, *Mar. 25*, 1498.
West Indies—Information as to Liquor Licences, *Mar. 22*, 1291.

Roberts, Mr. G. H. [Norwich]
Unemployed Grant in 1908, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 234.
Unemployed Workmen Act—Hardships Imposed by Qualification for Assistance in Case of W. G. Jex, *Mar. 13*, 38.

Roberts, Mr. J. H. [Denbighshire, W.]
Anthrax Outbreaks and Measures taken to Investigate Disease, *Mar. 26*, 1658.
Bengal Excise Bill, Re-introduction of, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 654.

Roberts, Mr. S. [Sheffield, Ecclesall]
Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1117.
Diplomatic and Consular Service
  Commercial Attaché System, Value of, *Mar. 14*, 222; *Mar. 20–21*, 851.
  Commercial Intelligence, Reason for Reduction in Estimate for, *Mar. 14*, 223.
Education
  Secondary School Regulations, Date of Publishing, *Mar. 20–21*, 857.
  Welsh Department, Legal Advisers for, *Mar. 20–21*, 857.
Naval Gun Reserve, Information as to, *Mar. 25*, 1483.
Old-Age Pensions—Amount of Exchequer Contribution, *Mar. 14*, 228.

Roberts, Mr. S.—*cont.*
Standing Committees, Increase in Number of, Alterations in Procedure and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1552–1554.
United States British Commercial Agent, Allowance for, *Mar. 20–21*, 849.

Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.—*Secretary to the Admiralty* [Dundee]
Admiralty
  Canvas Supplied by Private Firm, *Mar. 19*, 652.
  Powers as to Removal of Officers, *Mar. 27*, 1782.
“Barfleur,” Captains Appointed to, etc., during last Twenty-four Months, *Mar. 19*, 653.
Battleships — Arrangements for Flooding Magazines when in Dock, *Mar. 22*, 1270.
Britannia Royal Naval College, Barracks at—Original Estimate of Cost, etc., *Mar 27*, 1781.
Cape Colony—Extra Duty of Simonstown Naval Prison Warders, *Mar. 19*, 652.
Cap Ribbons, Tenders for, *Mar. 14*, 216.
Casualties to Ships—Statistics for 1905–6, and Causes of, *Mar. 27*, 1782.
Chatham Dockyard, Programme of Work in *Mar. 15*, 338.
Coastguards at Lamlash and Kildonan, Medical Attendance for, *Mar. 20–21*, 837.
Distribution of Fleets—Replacing Vessels requiring Extensive Refits, *Mar. 14*, 215.
Dockyard Writers, Petitions from, *Mar. 14*, 210.
Dover Harbour, Expenditure on—Regulations to Prevent Mishaps to Vessels, *Mar. 25*, 1483.
“Dreadnought,” Cost of Armament of,, *Mar. 25*, 1485.
Estimates
  Guns Provided for, Under Vote 9 *Mar. 23*, 1370.
  Report Stage, Rule as to Cause of Discussion on, *Mar. 14*, 260.
Expenditure
  Irish Contribution to, and Total Value of Contracts placed in Ireland, *Mar. 27*, 1781.
  Statement as to Great Britain and certain Foreign Countries (1907–8), *Mar. 18*, 418.
Explosives
  Composition of, *Mar. 22*, 1271.
  Mercuric Chloride, Decision as to Use of, *Mar. 25*, 1484.
Fishery Grounds, Protection of—Vessels Employed, *Mar. 23*, 1367.

[*cont.*

Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.—*cont.*

- Greenwich Hospital Age Pension, Conditions of Granting, *Mar. 20–21*, 823.
- Gun Reserve, Information as to, *Mar. 25*, 1483.
- Home Fleet
  - Boys, Employment of, *Mar. 14*, 215.
  - Commander-in-Chief—Potential Absence on Duty, *Mar. 14*, 216.
  - Composition of Nucleus Crews, *Mar. 23*, 1370.
- "Invincible" Class Cruisers, Cost of, and Date of Completing, *Mar. 23*, 1371.
- Libraries—Books, etc., ordered for, in 1906, *Mar. 27*, 1769.
- Marines, Royal, Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Beer delivered at Pensioned Warrant Officer's House, *Mar. 25*, 1482.
- Nucleus Crews, Training for, etc., *Mar. 14*, 298, 299.
- Portsmouth—Admiralty Coal supplied to Russian Ships, Instructions as to, *Mar. 27*, 1785.
- Prizes, Reason for Reduction in Estimate for and Omission of Printed Table, *Mar. 27*, 1780.
- Redistribution, Particulars of, *Mar. 19*, 653.
- "Renown," Cost of Alterations to, Vote on which Charged, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1769.
- Repairs, Policy as to, *Mar. 14*, 299.
- Reserve of Guns and Ammunition, *Mar. 19*, 652.
- Simon's Bay Dockyard Extension, Reason for Reduction in Estimate of Cost, *Mar. 27*, 1781.
- Two Years' Commission System, *Mar. 14*, 215.
- Vessels struck off the Effective List since 1904 (Great Britain and certain Foreign Countries), *Mar. 25*, 1482.

Robertson, Mr. J. M. [Northumberland, Tyneside]

- Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of Effecting, *Mar. 14*, 285.
- Egypt
  - Assize Courts—New Systemfor Appeals etc., *Mar. 22*, 1267.
  - Cairo Building Operations, Obstruction to Traffic Caused by, *Mar. 22*, 1267.
  - Education
    - Curriculum of Schools, *Mar. 22*, 1266.
    - Expediting Training of Teachers, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1267.
- Natal — Dinizulu's Action against his late Secretary—Reason for Adjournment of, *Mar. 25*, 1493.
- Navy, Strength of, *Mar. 14*, 285–289.
- Vaccination—Case of Mr. Manger, *Mar. 25*, 1508.

Robertson, Sir G. S. [Bradford, Central]

- Canadian Tariff Preference for British Goods, New Proposals as to, etc., *Mar. 13*, 35.
- Weights and Measures—Adoption of Metric System, *Mar. 22*, 1269.
- Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 22*, 1349–1352.

Robson, Sir W. S.—*Solicitor-General* [South Shields]

- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 531, 545, 547, 548–552.
- Debt, Commitments to Prison for—Increase in Number of, Restriction of Present Powers, proposed, *Mar. 20*, 943, 944.
- Newfoundland Fisheries—*Modus vivendi*, Circumstances of Granting—Statute Law of the Colony Over-riden, alleged, *Mar. 18*, 547–552.

Roche, Mr. A. [Cork]

- Ballincollig Barracks, Removal of Cavalry from, *Mar. 14*, 214.
- Cork County Telephone Extension, Proposals as to, *Mar. 20–21*, 834.

Roche, Mr. J. [Galway, E.]

- Ballyglunin, Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Mar. 14*, 250.
- Butson Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 20–21*, 867.
- Clanricarde Estate Planters, Speech at Meeting of, *Mar. 13*, 52.
- Grangemore Estate of Major Conlon, Disposal of, *Mar. 22*, 1281.
- Longworth Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 20–21*, 872.
- Streamstown—Annuity Payable on Estate Purchased by Commissioners, *Mar. 22*, 1281.
- Tuam Postal Service with Limerick Improvement of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 250.

Rogers, Mr. F. N. [Wilts, Devizes]

- Chippenham National School, No. 66, Decision as to Repairs to, *Mar. 13*, 124.

Roscommon

- Assizes—Direction to Crown Solicitor by Mr. Justice Kenny, as to certain Jurors.
  - *Qs.* Mr. McNeill, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 18*, 485, 486.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 19*, 674.
- Condition of—Report of Police, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Hayden; Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1669, 1670.
- Intimidation in—Remarks of Mr. Justice Kenny.
  - *Q.* Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 14*, 202.
- Land Commission Sittings, Date of holding.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18*, 440.

Roscrea
Housing Scheme, Reason for refusing Sanction to.
Q. Mr. K. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1631.

Rosebery, Earl of
Channel Tunnel, Construction of—Policy of the Government as to, *Mar. 21*, 1207.

Rosyth Naval Base
See under Navy.

Roumania
Trade Report Presented, *Mar. 26*, 1617.

Rowe's Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Ffrench; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1481.

Rowley Estate
Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. B. Moran.
Q. Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 868.

Royal Bank of Scotland Bill
l. 2R.* *Mar. 20*, 781.

Royal Insurance Company Bill
l. 3R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 637.

Runciman, Mr. W.—*Financial Secretary to the Treasury* [Dewsbury]
- Africa, West—Slavery in Islands of San Thomé and Principé, *Mar. 18*, 462.
- Ballybofey Railway Station, Right of Company to discontinue Use of, *Mar. 22*, 1281.
- British Museum Reading Room, Closing of, Provision for Accommodation of Readers, *Mar. 25*, 1470.
- Canada—Commercial Treaties—Interpretation of Most-Favoured-Nation Clause, *Mar. 25*, 1497.
- Carrick-on-Suir Convents, etc.; Valuation of, *Mar. 20–21*, 873.
- Civil Service
  - Boy Clerks and Copyists, Appointment, etc., of (1904–1906) *Mar. 20–21*, 830.
  - Second Division Clerks—Salary on Promotion, *Mar. 22*, 1292.
- Comptroller and Auditor-General, Age for Retirement of, *Mar. 13*, 18.
- Crete—Kavo Krio, Erection of Light on, Cause of Wreck of "Imperatrix" *Mar. 25*, 1496.
- Crown Lands—Power to make Free Gifts for Open Spaces, *Mar. 22*, 1274.

Runciman, Mr. W.—*cont.*
- Customs
  - Clerks, Classification and Salaries of, *Mar. 14*, 209.
  - Out-door Inspectors, System of Appointing, *Mar. 22*, 1292.
  - Statistical Department Assistants (New Class), Memorials from, *Mar. 14*, 209; *Mar. 22*, 1274.
- Diplomatic and Consular Service
  - Commercial Attaché System, Value of, *Mar. 14*, 222; *Mar. 20–21*, 851.
  - Linguistic Qualifications of Officers, *Mar. 18*, 461.
- Donaghadee Harbour Works—Wages of Labourers, *Mar. 25*, 1464.
- Doncaster—Land Tax Commissioner, Mr. M. Dowson, Reason for Failure of Clerk to notify Appointment, *Mar. 27*, 1817.
- Dublin
  - Registry of Deeds Office, Increase of Work in, *Mar. 20–21*, 831.
  - Science College, Materials used for, *Mar. 26*, 1671.
  - Technical Training College, Materials used in Erecting, *Mar. 25*, 1521
  - Valuation Office and Office of Registrar of Titles—Memorials from Clerks, *Mar. 27*, 1779.
- Education Grant, Ireland—Comparison with Great Britain, *Mar. 13*, 62.
- Egypt
  - Ancient Monuments, Proposals for Preserving, *Mar. 25*, 1498.
  - Assuan Dam, Reason for Raising, *Mar. 25*, 1498.
- Equivalent Grant, Amount of, *Mar. 14*, 197.
- Exchequer and Audit Department—Appointments to Colonial Audit Branch, *Mar. 13*, 19.
- Gravesend Water-Guard Inspector, Reasons for Appointing Naval Officer, *Mar. 27*, 1816.
- Hague Conference
  - Disarmament Proposals, Discussion of, *Mar. 18*, 462; *Mar. 25*, 1496.
  - Instructions to British Delegates, *Mar. 13*, 29; *Mar. 20*, 848.
- Hibernian Academy
  - Commission Report and Recommendations, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 79–81.
  - Grant to, *Mar. 13*, 79.
  - Life School, Amalgamation of with that of Board of Agriculture, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 80.
  - Site of, Proposals as to Removal, etc., *Mar. 13*, 81.

[*cont.*

Runciman, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Historical Manuscripts, Irish—Collections in Course of Publication, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1779.
Housing of the Working Classes—Loans to Irish Urban Councils, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 678.
Judges—Allowances on Circuit, *Mar. 18*, 466; *Mar. 25*, 1504.
Land Act, 1903—Legality of Advances on Insolvent Property, *Mar. 13*, 63, 64.
Land Purchase—Loans by Works Board, Regulations for, *Mar. 14*, 250.
Macedonia
  Budget, Military Expenditure charged to, *Mar. 20–21*, 849.
  Financial Commission Report, Proposals as to Tabling, *Mar. 25*, 1498.
Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Proposals as to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1836–1840, 1846, 1849, 1850.
Milan Exhibition—Cause for Delay in Presenting Diplomas a d Medals, *Mar. 19*, 669.
National Gallery—Sale of Photographs of Pictures, *Mar. 19*, 670, 671.
National Physical Laboratory Inquiry
  Date of issuing Report, *Mar. 14*, 230.
  Terms of Reference, etc., of Committee, *Mar. 20*, 833; *Mar. 22*, 1293, 1294.
  Work of—Grants received, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1655–1657.
New Caledonia Penal Settlement, Australasian Protests against, *Mar. 20–21*, 847.
New Forest—Turbary Rights of Mr. H. Taylor, *Mar. 18*, 435.
Opium Traffic—proposals for Commission or Conference, *Mar. 20–21*, 850, 851.
Ordnance Survey Civil Assistants, Abatements from Pay of, *Mar. 26*, 1629.
Persia—Protection of British Legation and Consulates, *Mar. 20–21*, 849.
Population of Ireland in 1895–6 and 1905–6, *Mar. 27*, 1780.
Portuguese Import Duty on Fish, Proposed Increase of, *Mar. 13*, 29.
Regent Street Quadrant, Proposals for Rebuilding, *Mar. 25*, 1470.
Revenue—Irish Contribution to in 1895–6 and 1905–6, *Mar. 27*, 1780.
Russia
  Anglo-Russian Convention, Information as to, *Mar. 13*, 29.
  Bankruptcy, Systematic and Fraudulent, among Traders, Allegations as to, *Mar. 25*, 1495.

Runciman, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Russia—*cont.*
  Duty on Indian Tea—Representations to Government, etc., *Mar. 20–21*, 848.
  Russo-Japanese Convention—Provisions as to Arbitration, *Mar. 13*, 28.
Taxation—Surveyors' Clerks, *Status* of, *Mar. 18*, 432; *Mar. 19*, 670; *Mar. 25*, 1471.
Tonquin—Railway from Hanoi to Lao-kai, Information as to, *Mar. 25*, 1497.
Uganda Railway, Profit on Working of, *Mar. 19*, 646.
United States
  Allowance for British Commercial Agent, *Mar. 20–21*, 850.
  Shipping Trade between East and West Coasts, *Mar. 25*, 1498.
War Office Old Buildings and Sites, Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 432.
Works Board, Ireland
  Haugh, Conor, Loan to, *Mar. 19*, 678.
  Luncheon Interval of Staff, *Mar. 15*, 340.
  New Year's Day, Arrangements as to, *Mar. 19*, 646.
  Second Division Clerks—Promotion and Increments, *Mar. 20*, 831.
  Staff, Procedure in Indicating Late Arrival, *Mar. 13*, 19.
Yorkshire Miners' Association, Income Tax Liability of, *Mar. 25*, 1454.

Rural Districts
Medical Officers and Inspectors of Nuisances, Salaries of.
  Q. Sir W. Foster; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18*, 437.

Russia
Anglo-Russian Convention, Information as to—Persian Concurrence, etc.
  Q. Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 29.
Bankruptcy, Systematic and Fraudulent, among Traders, Allegations as to.
  Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1495.
Indian Tea, Duty on—Representations to Government, etc.
  Qs. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 848.
Russo-Japanese Convention—Provisions as to Arbitration.
  Q. Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 13*, 28.

Rutherford, Dr. V. H. [Middlesex, Brentford]
Armaments, Possibility of Effecting Reduction of, *Mar. 14*, 276–279.

Rutherford, Dr. V. H.—*cont.*

Defence of the Empire, Expenditure on—Obtaining Colonial Views at Forthcoming Conference proposed, *Mar. 14,* 217.

Egyptian—Lunacy Law—Accommodation for Lunatics, etc., *Mar. 14,* 221, 222.

Hygiene and Temperance, Inclusion of, in Code, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 99, 100.

Natal British Indians, Trading Rights of, *Mar. 18,* 456; *Mar. 19,* 641.

Navy, *Personnel,* Reductions in, *Mar. 14,* 273.

Rutherford, Mr. W. W. [Liverpool, West Derby]

Army (Annual) Bill, *Com., Mar. 21,* 1007, 1023, 1037, 1038, 1053, 1056, 1061, 1071, 1073, 1104, 1169, 1171, 1174, 1181, 1183, 1187, 1188, 1195–1197.

Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 22,* 1309.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, *Com., Mar. 19,* 776, 778.

Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20,* 968.

Standing Committees, Referring Bills to

Bills having passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than two-thirds to be sent to Grand Committee, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1604.

Exemption of Bills imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1722.

Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was Responsible, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1593.

Standing Orders, Amendment or Repeal of—Procedure in submitting to the House, *Mar. 20,* 886, 888.

Ryan's Estate

Threatening Letter sent to Mr. H. Burns. *Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 55, 56.

St. Helena

Distress in, Proposals for Relieving. *Q.* Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 27,* 1801.

St. Lucia

Prison-diet Scales and Amended Rule Presented, *Mar. 19,* 600, 638.

Salford

Magistrates Remarks and Course of Action taken in Cases of Passive Resisters. *Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25,* 1505, 1506.

Salisbury, Marquess of

Army

Nucleus Battalions, Conditions of joining by Militiamen, *Mar. 21,* 1242–1245.

Officers, Effect of Abolition of the Militia on Supply of, *Mar. 21,* 1248, 1249.

Territorial—Memorandum Explanatory of, Issue of, proposed, *Mar. 21,* 1242, 1244.

Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 14,* 175.

Militia

Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21,* 1240–1249.

Services rendered by, *Mar. 21,* 1247

Salmon Fisheries

Legislative Proposals as to. *Q.* Mr. Beckett; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 25,* 1515.

Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Acts 1,988

Notice issued under, by Fishmongers Company. *Qs.* Mr. Ainsworth; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18,* 482, 483.

Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Bill

l. 1R.* *Mar. 21,* 1203.

Salter, Mr. C. [Hampshire, Basingstoke]

Army

Accounts Department, Proposals as to Changes in, *Mar. 19,* 650.

Order of 11th March, Effect of, *Mar. 19,* 651.

Saltoun, Lord

Scottish Crofting Counties—Return as to Population in, *Mar. 18,* 410.

Samuel, Mr. H. L.—*Under Secretary, Home Office* [Yorkshire, Cleveland]

Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 393.

Samuel, Mr. S. M. [Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel]

London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19,* 760, 761.

Sandys, Colonel T. M. [Lancashire, Bootle]

Army—Cavalry Depôts, Reviving System of, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 303, 304.

Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 387.

Militia Officers, Full Dress Uniform, proposals as to under New Scheme, *Mar. 27,* 1789.

Sassoon, Sir E. A. [Hythe]

Anhui Mining Final Contract, Progress of Negotiations as to, *Mar. 18,* 432.

"Berlin," Investigation into Wreck of, *Mar. 13,* 31, 32.

[*cont.*

Sassoon, Sir E. A.—*cont.*
Cutlery and Felt made in Germany and Marked "Sheffield," Prevention of Importation of, *Mar. 23*, 1371.
Merchant Vessels and the Distribution of Oil on Stormy Waters, *Mar. 13*, 31.
Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22*, 1345–1349.

Saturday Closing of Public Houses Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 489.

Savings Banks
See Post Office Savings Bank, *and titles* Army and Navy.

Scientific Investigation
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Scotland
Secretary for—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.
Lord-Advocate—Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.
Solicitor-General—Mr. A. Ure.
(*For* particular places, *see their Names.*)
Births, Deaths, and Marriages—Report (1906) Presented, *Mar. 23*, 1365; *Mar. 26*, 1618.
Church Commission
Date of effecting Settlement.
Q. Mr. Findlay; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 14*, 248.
Vacancy, Proposals for filling.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 21, 22.
Crofters' Act, 1886, Proposals for Amendment of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 42.
Crofters' Commission
Report (1906) Presented, *Mar. 23*, 1366; *Mar. 26*, 1618.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.
Crofting Counties—Return as to Population in.
Os. Lord Saltoun, Lord Hamilton of Dalziel, *Mar. 18*, 410.
Ordered, *Mar. 18*, 410.
Deer Forests, Particulars of—Return as to, Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1768.
Ecclesiastical Assessment, Legislative Proposals for Abolition of.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 40, 41.
Education, *see that title.*
Established Church of Scotland—Return as to Regulations of General Assembly for Election of Ministers ordered, *Mar. 26*, 1762.
Free Church, Right of Appeal against Decisions of.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Mar. 13*, 21.

Scotland—*cont.*
Free Church and United Free Church—Decision as to Places of Meeting.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Mar. 12*, 22.
General Aid Grant, Purposes applicable to.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 18*, 483, 484.
Law Charges and Courts of Law. Vote for, *Mar. 13*. 69.
Secretary's Office, Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Scott and Cleaver Estate
Purchase Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1774, 1775.

Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties)
c. 1R.* *Mar. 27*, 1830.

Seaverns, Mr. J. H. [Lambeth, Brixton]
Cuba—Claim of Messrs. Fowler against the Spanish Government, *Mar. 26*, 1626.
Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Proposals as to, *Mar. 14*, 242.
Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Objections to Renewal of, *Mar. 27*, 1850.
Taxation, Surveyors' Clerks, Grievances of—Proposals for Inquiry, *Mar. 25*, 1470.

Secret Service
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Secretary of State for the Colonies
Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.

Secretary of State for India
Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Secretary for Scotland
Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.

Secretary of State for War
Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.

Seddon, Mr. J. R. [Lancashire, Newton]
Post Office Mail Cart Drivers—Scope of Inquiry, *Mar. 14*, 208.
Soldiers, Civil Employment of, on Discharge—Wages paid by Messrs. Harrod, *Mar. 14*, 204; *Mar. 20–21*, 840.

Seely, Major J. E. B. [Liverpool, Abercromby]
(Army) Annual Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18,* 588; *Com., Mar. 21,* 1103, 1178.
Blocking Motions and Bills put on the Order Paper to prevent Discussion—Infringement of Privilege, *Mar. 27,* 1891.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill—Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 21,* 1178.
Small Holdings and Cottages Bill
  Proposals for Presenting, *Mar. 26,* 1675.
  Withdrawal of Motion for in Order to Facilitate Discussion of Resolution, proposed, *Mar. 26,* 1675.
Soldiers, Consumptive, Treatment of, on Discharge, *Mar. 26,* 1633.

Separation Orders
Numbers made by Magistrates and Judges during 1905 and 1906.
  Q. Mr. J. M. Henderson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18,* 467.

Servia
Tariff Arrangements with—Views of British Colonies.
  Qs. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14,* 224, 225.

Sewage Disposal
Bill dealing with, Date of Introducing.
  Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27,* 1787.

Shackleton, Mr. D. [Lancashire, Clitheroe]
Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22,* 1340–1345.

Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.—*Lord Advocate* [Hawick Burghs]
Elliot Junction Railway Accident—Revision of Sentence on Gourlay, proposed, *Mar. 13,* 42; *Mar. 25,* 1517, 1518.
Free and United Free Churches
  Decision as to Places of Meeting, *Mar. 13,* 22.
  Right of Appeal against Decision of, Free Church, *Mar.* 13, 21.
Lunatic Asylums, District, Discharge of Patients from, and Class of Patient admitted to, *Mar. 22,* 1275.
Railway Accidents—Procedure in Arrest of Officials, *Mar. 25,* 1517.
Sheriff Courts [Scotland] Bill, Intro., *Mar. 25,* 1528–1530.
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19,* 723, 737–740.

Sheehy, Mr. D. [Meath, S.]
Ardcath Post Office, Establishment of, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1521.
Dunshaughlin Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Applications rejected, *Mar. 25,* 1520.

Sheffield, Sir B. [Yorkshire, W.R., Osgoldcross]
Women's Suffrage—Girls brought from Lancashire, Measures taken to send Home, *Mar. 25,* 1509.

Sheffield Corporation Bill
l. 2R., *Mar. 20,* 782.

Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Bill
c Intro., *Mar. 25,* 1528.
1R.* *Mar. 25,* 1530.

Shipman, Dr. J. G. [Northampton]
Local Bodies, Election of Women to serve on—Date of Introduction of Bill, *Mar. 27,* 1791.

Shoebury
Foreshores, By-laws for Regulating User of.
  Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 25,* 1488.

Shop Hours Act
Orders made under, Presented, *Mar. 13,* 4; *Mar. 14,* 164, 189; *Mar. 20,* 784, 820.

Siam
Treaty with France, Terms of, etc.
  Q. Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 27,* 1801.

Sierra Leone
Rubber Monopoly obtained by Ex-Governor.
  Os. Mr. Smeaton, *Mar. 18,* 556.

Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited, Bill
l. 1R.* *Mar. 18,* 405.

Simpson Estate
Reinstatement Claim of M. Regan.
  Q. Mr. T. F. Smythe; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19,* 676.

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*Secretary for Scotland* [Forfarshire]
Achintee River—Erection of Footbridge, proposed, *Mar. 20–21,* 861.
Agriculture Scientific Research Departmental Committee—Reason for Exclusion of Scotland from Terms of Reference, *Mar. 27,* 1820.
Alness Ferry Tenancy Dispute, *Mar. 27,* 1821.
Ardler Water Supply, Proposals for Improving, *Mar. 14,* 247.
Balintore Harbour, Condition of, *Mar. 18,* 479.

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Beauly and Ness Rivers, Fishery Rights Claimed in, *Mar. 26*, 1662.
- Church Commission
  - Date of Effecting Settlement, *Mar. 14*, 248.
  - Vacancy, Proposals for Filling, *Mar. 13*, 22.
- Clyde Fishing Industry—Inquiry proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1271.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R. *Mar. 18*, 575, 577.
- Crofters Act, 1886, Proposals for Amending, *Mar. 13*, 42.
- Dunkeld Right of Way Case, Cost of—Proposals for Amendments of Law, *Mar. 14*, 249.
- Ecclesiastical Assessments, Proposals for Abolishing, *Mar. 13*, 41.
- Education
  - Grant for New Schools, Proposals as to, *Mar. 26*, 1660.
  - Inspectors, System of Selecting, *Mar. 20–21*, 861, 862.
  - Legislative Proposals for Dealing with Franchise, *Mar. 26*, 1660.
  - Privy Council Committee, Meetings and Proceedings of, *Mar. 27*, 1821.
  - Roman Catholic Teachers' Pension Rights under the Bill, *Mar. 27*, 1822.
- Education (Scotland) Bill, Intro., *Mar. 20*, 880–882.
  - Provisions of, *Mar. 25*, 1517.
- Elliot Junction Railway Accident—Revision of Sentence on Gourlay, proposed, *Mar. 15*, 342; *Mar. 27*, 1771.
- Fisheries
  - Riparian Rights Inquiry, Scope of, *Mar. 26*, 1661; *Mar. 18*, 481; *Mar. 19*, 673, 674; *Mar. 25*, 1516.
  - Trawling
    - Cases reported during last Five Years, *Mar. 18*, 478, 479.
    - "Endeavour," Damage done to outside Wick Harbour by Trawler, "Campania," *Mar. 27*, 1823.
    - Protection of Fishery Grounds, Measures taken for, *Mar. 18*, 484, 485, 576.
- General Aid Grant, Purposes Applicable to, *Mar. 18*, 483, 484.
- Glasgow Provincial Council for Training of Teachers, alleged Refusal of Grants to Teachers taking Vacation Courses Abroad, *Mar. 27*, 1822.
- Juvenile Offenders in Scotland, Treatment of—Return proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1515.

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Lewis, Island of
  - Aignish Cattle, Proposals for Improving Breed of, *Mar. 18*, 479.
  - Common Grazings of Skinned Land, Authorising Erection of Houses on, *Mar. 13*, 42.
  - Fishermen—Hours for Purchase of Steam Drifters, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1659.
- Mellon Udrigle Boat Slip—Reply to Petition, *Mar. 18*, 479.
- Moray Firth
  - Fish bred in, *Mar. 22*, 1271.
  - Scientific Investigation in, Nature of, *Mar. 27*, 1819, 1820.
  - Trawling in
    - Foreign Vessels other than Norwegian observed since 1903, *Mar. 18*, 422.
    - Norwegian Government, Negotiations with, *Mar. 13*, 43; *Mar. 18*, 482, 577; *Mar. 27*, 1819.
    - Number of Vessels observed since 2nd March, *Mar. 14*, 249; *Mar. 14*, 190.
    - Prevention, Measures taken for, *Mar. 14*, 248.
    - Proposals for Dealing with Matter, *Mar. 13*, 43; *Mar. 18*, 484.
    - Prosecutions, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 41.
    - Rewards Offered for Information, Effect of, *Mar. 19*, 673.
  - Waters Outside Three-mile Limit Enclosed in—Terms of By-law No. 8, *Mar. 27*, 1819.
- National Gallery Trustees, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 42; *Mar. 20*, 861; *Mar. 26*, 1660.
- Ness, Loch—Salmon Fishery Rights of the Public, *Mar. 26*, 1661.
- Poor Law
  - Duncan, Dr. G., Reason for Dismissal of, *Mar. 18*, 481.
  - Medical Assistance—Powers of Local Government Board, *Mar. 26*, 1661.
  - Poor House Medical Officers, Dismissals of, *Mar. 18*, 482.
- Portmahomack Harbour, Condition of, *Mar. 18*, 480.
- Rates (1905–6) Information as to, *Mar. 18*, 434.
- Rating System, Unification of, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1271.
- River Pollution, Prevention of—Powers Conferred by Existing Law, etc., *Mar. 18*, 480.
- Salmon Fisheries Scotland Acts 1868—Notice Issued by Fishmongers' Company, *Mar. 18*, 482, 483.

[*cont.*

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 687–699, 699–703, 705, 706, 707, 712, 724, 736, 741.
Sprouston—Allegations against Mr. J. Avery, *Mar. 22*, 1272.
Tweed River Fisheries—Legality of Claims to Exclusive Rights, *Mar. 13*, 41.

Sitting of the House
Saturday Sitting—*Motion* [Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman], *Mar. 21*, 1203; *Mar. 22*, 1305.
Os. Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 22*, 1305; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 1307, 1308.

Slates
German Import Duty on Welsh Slates, etc. *Qs.* Mr. Remnant; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13*, 32, 33.

Sligo
County Council Printing Contract—Decision of Auditor.
Q. Viscount Castlereagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1302, 1303.

Sloan, Mr. T. H. [Belfast, S.]
Constabulary Recruiting Area, Restriction of, proposed, *Mar. 15*, 344.
Doohoma School—Circumstances of Eviction of Mr. Cryan by Father Dolphin, etc., *Mar. 15*, 343; *Mar. 20–21*, 872, 873.
Dublin Metropolitan Police
Recruiting Area, Restriction of, proposed, *Mar. 15*, 344.
Religion of, *Mar, 18*, 448.
Education
Legislative proposals of the Government, *Mar. 20–21*, 872.
National Commissioners, Proceedings of, Lack of Information as to, *Mar. 23*, 1400, 1401.
Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to Remedying and Increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1400–1403.
Schools
Grant for Erection, proposals as to, *Mar. 20–21*, 867.
Insanitary Condition of, etc., *Mar. 23*, 1401.
Taxation—*Status* of Surveyors' Clerks, *Mar. 18*, 432.

Small Holdings
Committee Report on—Publication of Replies to Circular Letter, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. B. Harmsworth; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 25*, 1468.

Small Holdings Bill
c. Order for Second Reading Read and Bill Withdrawn, *Mar. 25*, 1527.
Date of Introducing
Q. Mr. Beckett; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 27*, 1829.

Small Holdings (No. 2) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 683.

Small Holdings and Cottages Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1676.
Discussion of Resolution on Subject Shut out by Presentation of Bill—Withdrawal of Bill, proposed.
Os. Major Seely, Lord R. Cecil, *Mar. 26*, 1675.

Small Landholders in Scotland Bill
c. Intro., *Mar. 19*, 687.
1R.* *Mar. 19*, 744.
Debate on Introduction (Commons) *Mar. 19*, 687.
Agricultural Education, Proposals as to, 711, 712, 732.
Commissioners of Agriculture, Powers and Duties of, 700.
Compulsory Powers for Acquisition of Land, Proposals as to, 700, 727.
Crofters
Act, Working of and Benefits derived from, 691–693, 737, 740.
Commission, Work of, 691, 692.
Definition of, 690.
Deer Forests, Number of Acres devoted to, 689, 743.
Depopulation of Rural Districts, Statistics as to and Causes of, 687, 688, 704–707, 720, 728–730, 732.
Dual Ownership, Objections to, 694, 714, 715, 718, 735, 742.
Funds for Purposes of, 712, 713, 722, 730.
Land Commission
Estimate of Cost of, 736.
Powers to be Confined to Judicial Functions, 700.
Landlords, Position of, 707–710, 733, 738, 739, 740.
Measure to Apply to the Whole of Scotland, 689, 703, 704.
New Holdings, Proposals as to Creation of, 699, 700, 722.
Policy of Congested Districts Board with Regard to Small Holdings, 695, 696.
Security of Tenure for Existing Holders, Proposals as to, 690, 699, 730.
Small Tenants, Application of the Bill Solely to, 701, 710.
Introduction of, in House of Lords, proposed.
Os. Earl of Camperdown, *Mar. 13*, 4–6; Earl of Crewe, 6, 7.

[*cont.*

Small Landholders in Scotland Bill—*cont.*
Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 254.
Q. Mr. Cochrane; *A.* Mr. J. A. Pease, *Mar. 15*, 403, 404.
Second Reading, Date of Taking.
Q. Mr. Crombie; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26*, 1672.

Smeaton, Mr. D. M. [Stirlingshire]
Anglo-Russian Convention, Information as to, *Mar. 13*, 29.
Ceylon
Colombo Port Trust, Establishment of, *Mar. 18*, 455.
Pearl Fisheries, Lease of, to a Private Company, Responsibility of Sir West Ridgway, etc., *Mar. 18*, 554–556; *Mar. 25*, 1492.
Colonial Ex-Governors Engaging in Commercial Enterprises affecting Colonies with which they have been Connected, *Mar. 20–21*, 845, 846.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 553, 555–557.
Education
Inspectors, System of Selecting, *Mar. 20–21*, 861, 862.
Privy Council Committee, Meetings and Proceedings of, *Mar. 27*, 1821.
Fiji Guano Monopoly Obtained by Ex-High Commissioner, *Mar. 18*, 557.
India—Affairs of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., *Mar. 13*, 25.
Liquor Traffic—Children Taken into Public Houses, Legislative Proposals for Restricting, *Mar. 25*, 1505.
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 367.
Russo-Japanese Convention—Provisions as to Arbitration, *Mar. 13*, 28.
Siam—Treaty with France, Terms of, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1801.
Sierra Leone—Rubber Monopoly obtained by Ex-Governor, *Mar. 18*, 556.
Vivisection Inspectors, Salaries of, *Mar. 27*, 1804, 1805.

Smith, Mr. A. H. [Herts, Hertford]
Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 366.

Smith, Mr. F. E. [Liverpool, Walton]
London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 765–768, 769.

Smith, Mr. W. F. D. [Strand, Westminster]
Army—Second Line, Eligibility of Civil Servants, *Mar. 14*, 203.
Regent Street Quadrant, Proposals for Rebuilding, *Mar. 25*, 1469.
Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill—Clause 28, 3 (c) Transfer of Property under, *Mar. 18*, 422.

Smyth, Mr. T. [Leitrim, S.]
Clements Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. A. Kerrigan, *Mar. 19*, 677.
Corofin Constabulary District Inspector—Circumstances of loss of Sum of Money, *Mar. 20–21*, 870.
Ensor Estate—Reinstatement Claim of F. Murphy, *Mar. 19*, 676.
Harlech Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. Alice Reilly, *Mar. 26*, 1667.
La Touche Estate—Reinstatement Claim of F. Donlon, *Mar. 19*, 676.
Post Office Savings Bank—Transfer of Irish Business, proposed, *Mar. 19*, 679.
Rowley Estate—Reinstatement Claim of Mrs. B. Moran, *Mar. 20–21*, 868.
Simpson Estate—Reinstatement Claim of M. Regan, *Mar. 19*, 676.
Vaugh Estate—Reinstatement Claim of J. Doherty, *Mar. 20–21*, 824.

Society of Apothecaries of London Bill
*l. Rep.** *Mar. 19*, 597.

Solicitor-General
Sir W. S. Robson.

Solicitor-General for Ireland
Mr. R. Barry.

Solicitor-General for Scotland
Mr. A. Ure.

Somers Town
Insanitary State of Little Clarendon Street, Cause of.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 235.

Sonnagh
Estate of Duc de Stacpool — Case of Lennon Girls.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 649.

Soudan
French—Agreement as to Boundary of Gold Coast, Presented, *Mar. 19*, 599, 639.

South Kensington Technical College
Governing Body of.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 23*, 1369, 1370.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill
c. 2R.* *Mar. 25*, 1451.

Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Rulings of
Army Estimates—Matter Irrelevant to Vote under Discussion, *Mar. 14*, 325, 326.
Blocking Motion of Member for Barnstaple, Effect of, *Mar. 25*, 1524, 1525.

[*cont.*

Speaker and Duputy-Speaker, Rulings of —*cont.*

Civil Service Estimates—Matter Irrelevant to Vote under Discussion, *Mar. 13*, 100.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill—Matter Irrelevant to Vote under Discussion, Introduction of, *Mar. 20*, 974, 975, 986.

"Cowardice," Imputation by Member, *Mar. 14*, 332, 333.

Divisions—Tellers having gone before Member had passed Lobby Door Question as to Recording Vote, *Mar. 25*, 1607, 1608.

Great Western, etc., Railway Companies Bill—Instruction to Committee out of Order, *Mar. 19*, 744.

Matter Irrelevant to Subject under Discussion, Introduction of, *Mar. 18*, 515, 555; *Mar. 26*, 1740; *Mar. 27*, 1869.

Member having a Personal Interest in a Question was liable to have his Vote Disallowed, *Mar. 27*, 1849.

Member was not entitled to intervene during Speech by another Member, *Mar. 13*, 148.

Navy Estimates

Matter Irrelevant to Vote under Discussion, *Mar. 14*, 259, 260, 281, 290, 301.

Report Stage, Rule as to Course of Discussion on, *Mar. 14*, 260.

Notice of Motion—Rule as to Amendment of Motion after Giving Notice, *Mar. 19*, 681.

Post Office Mail Contract (Liverpool and Hong Kong), Discussion of, *Mar. 26*, 1674.

Speech by Senior Member for City of London—Question as to Breach of Privilege, *Mar. 20*, 876, 877.

Standing Committees, Reference of Bills to Motion for, Procedure as to, *Mar. 26*, 1696.

Standing Order Providing for Time for Vote on Account, Alleged Discrepancy in, *Mar. 14*, 256.

Standing Orders, Amendment or Repeal of Procedure in Submitting to the House, *Mar. 20*, 887, 888.

Welsh Church, Disestablishment of—Motion for, Out of Order, *Mar. 23*, 1372.

Women's Franchise—Motion for, Effect on, of Proposal to Introduce Bill on same Subject, *Mar. 25*, 1525, 1526.

Spotted Fever

See Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Sprouston

Avery, Mr. J., Statements against and Testimonials sent by.

Q. Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 22*, 1272.

Spurious Sports Bill

Proposals as to Facilities for.

Q. Mr. G. Greenwood; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 252, 253.

Standing Committees

See under Committees.

Standing Orders

Alterations proposed in, Reprinting Orders to show Effect of.

Q. Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 18*, 487.

Amendment or Repeal of—Procedure in Submitting to the House.

Os. Mr. W. Rutherford, *Mar. 20*, 886, 888; Mr. Speaker, 887, 888.

No. 167, Amendment of

Motion [Mr. Emmott], *Mar. 14*, 312.

Order in Debate—Appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry into Standing Orders Relating to, proposed—*Motion* [Lord Burghclere], *Mar. 19*, 600.

Os. Lord Burghclere, *Mar. 19*, 600–608; Earl of Onslow, 608–614; Marquess of Lansdowne, 614–616; Earl of Crewe, 616–619.

Resolutions Reported from Select Committee, *Mar. 19*, 635.

Standing Order Providing for Time for Vote on Account, Alleged Discrepancy in.

Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 14*, 256.

Stanger, Mr. H. Y. [Kensington, N.]

Omnibus Tickets, Details shown on, *Mar. 26*, 1646.

Stanley, Mr. A. L. [Cheshire, Eddisbury]

Butter and Margarine Bill, Second Reading, Date of taking, *Mar. 25*, 1456.

Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R. *Mar. 15*, 390.

Starkey, Mr. J. R. [Notts., Newark]

Territorial Army—Irish Recruits, Proposals as to, *Mar. 27*, 1795.

Stationery and Printing

Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 68.

Statute Law Revision Bill

l. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 409.

Staveley Coal and Iron Company Bill

l. Rep. *Mar. 19*, 597.

Steadman, Mr. W. C. [Finsbury, Central]

Telegraph Learners, Employment of—Number of Ex-Soldiers appointed, etc., *Mar. 22*, 1296.

Stepney
Simpson, Ellen, Case of—Cause of Death, etc.
  Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26*, 1626, 1627.

Stewart-Smith, Mr. D. [Westmoreland Kendal]
Companies, Limited, Registration of, since 1895, *Mar. 13*, 21.

Stewartstown
Disturbance at, Cause of.
  Qs. Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. J. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27*, 1825, 1826.

Stirling Castle
Sum Allotted to Maintenance and Repair of
  Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Harcourt *Mar. 20–21*, 855, 856.

Stock Exchange Transactions
American Railway Stocks, Fee on Transfer of.
  Q. Mr. G. H. Faber; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 20–21*, 851, 852.
Bank Shares—Violation of Leeman's Act, alleged.
  Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 13*, 22.
Revenue derivable from 1 Per Cent. Stamp Tax on.
  Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 27*, 1804.

Strachey, Sir E. [Somerset, S.]
Agricultural Holdings Act
  Evasion of, by certain Landlords, Allegations as to Letter from Lord Egerton of Tatton, *Mar. 14*, 246.
  Garnett, Mr., of Clitheroe—Reason for giving Tenants Notice to Quit, *Mar. 19*, 671.
Agriculture
  Elliot, Mr. R. H., Value of Experiments of, *Mar. 19*, 673.
  Labour Employment Bureau, Establishment of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 246; *Mar. 20*, 854.
  Scientific Research—Terms of Reference of Departmental Committee, *Mar. 27*, 1818, 1819.
Agriculture Board
  Expenditure—Estimate for 1907–8, *Mar. 18*, 430.
  Total Amount voted for Since Establishment and Rate per Head of Population, *Mar. 27*, 1787.
Anthrax Outbreaks and Measures taken to Investigate Disease, *Mar. 26*, 1658.
Barley, Malting—Quantities and Prices sold in certain Markets, *Mar. 20–21*, 833.

Strachey, Sir E.—*cont.*
Birds, Feeding Habits, and Utility of—Inquiry into, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1817, 1818.
Epping Tithe Rent Charge Redemption, Cause for Delay in dealing with, *Mar. 26*, 1658.
Gooseberry Mildew
  Ireland, Prevalence in, *Mar. 18*, 436.
  Origin of, and Proposals for dealing with, *Mar. 14*, 208.
North Sea Fisheries Investigation Expenditure, on, *Mar. 26*, 1657.
Salmon Fisheries, Legislative Proposals as to, *Mar. 25*, 1515.
Small Holdings, Committee Report on—Publication of Replies to Circular Letter, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1468.
Sugar Beet Cultivation in British Isles—Tabling Papers, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 245.

Straits Settlements
Garrison, Reduction of.
  Os. Mr. Ashley, *Mar. 14*, 307; Mr. Haldane, 309, 310.

Straus, Mr. B. S. [Tower Hamlets, Mile End]
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20*, 958–960.
Transvaal Election—Return as to Votes, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 217.
Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 22*, 1311–1323.

Streamstown
Estate purchased by Estates Commissioners, Annuity Payable on.
  Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22*, 1281.

Stuart, Mr. J. [Sunderland]
Rates, Metropolitan, Necessity for Equalisation of, *Mar. 20*, 961.

Suffolk West
Crime in.
  Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26*, 1648.

Sugar
Abolition of, Proposal for.
  Q. Colonel Harrison-Broadley; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 18*, 438, 439.
Revenue from, in 1906—Date of Issue of Return as to Price.
  Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 22*, 1278.

Sugar Beet
Cultivation in British Isles—Tabling Papers, proposed.
  Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Mar. 14*, 245.
Ireland, Result of Experiments in.
  Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1664.

Summerbell, Mr. T. [Sunderland]
Calico, Dressing put in—Case of Ann Wilson, *Mar. 26*, 1647.
Devonshire Constabulary Superintendents—Reason for Appointment of Retired Military Officers, *Mar. 27*, 1805.
Sittings, All-night, Pay of Employees during, *Mar. 26*, 1659.
Stepney—Case of Ellen Simpson, *Mar. 26*, 1626.
Sunday Teaching of a Socialistic Character given in certain Schools, alleged, *Mar. 13*, 110, 111.
Thornley Postman, Hours of Duty and Pay of, *Mar. 19*, 667.
Trinidad
Customs Tariff Commission, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 655; *Mar. 27*, 1800.
Labourers in, Conditions of Employment, Number imported, etc., *Mar. 27*, 1797–1799.

Superannuation
Appointments without Certificates—Treasury Minute Presented, *Mar. 22*, 1265; *Mar. 25*, 1453; *Mar. 26*, 1618.
Office of Assistant to Director of Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Removal of, from Operation of Section 4 of Act—Treasury Minute Presented, *Mar. 27*, 1768.

Supply
See also Titles, Army Estimates, Civil Service Estimates, Navy Estimates.
Grants from Consolidated Fund towards making good
£71,715, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 126.
£38,114,700, *Rep.* Mar. 13*, 126; *Mar. 14*, 336.
Scottish, Date of taking.
Q. Mr. Crombie; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 26*, 1672.

Supreme Court of Judicature
See under Law Courts.

Sutherland, Mr. J. E. [Elgin Burghs]
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2r., *Mar. 18*, 567.
Moray Firth, Trawling in
Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 18*, 481, 567–571.
Prosecutions, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 41.

Surveys
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 67.

Sutton (Surrey)
Rate Summonses—Fees payable to Justices' Clerks.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 20–21*, 853.

Swinford
Landlords, Allegations as to Rent Recovery Measures by.
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 57, 58.

Switzerland
Commercial Travellers' Samples, Agreement Presented, *Mar. 13*, 4.

Tannamore
Orange Meeting—Speech of Mr. A. Lloyd.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26*, 1668.

Taxation
Incidence of, Necessity for Re-adjustment, etc.
Os. Mr. Bennett, *Mar. 26*, 1729–1735; Mr. C. Money, 1735–1744; Mr. Asquith, 1744–1745; Mr. Hills, 1745–1748; Mr. Hemmerde, 1748–1750; Mr. Lane-Fox, 1750–1752; Mr. Wedgwood, 1752–1757; Mr. Bridgeman, 1757–1758; Mr. Rees, 1759–1761; Mr. Hunt, 1761, 1762.
Income Tax, *see that Title.*
Ireland—Local Taxation Returns for 1905–6 Presented, *Mar. 25*, 1453; *Mar. 26*, 1617.
Surveyors' Clerks, *Status* of—Result of Investigation and Proposals for dealing with Matter.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18*, 432, 433.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 670.
Q. Mr. Seaverns, ; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1470, 1471.

Taylor, Mr. A. [Liverpool, East Toxteth]
Bristol Corporation Bill, 2r., *Mar. 13*, 8.
Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2r., *Mar. 15*, 385
Mail Service between Hong Kong and Liverpool—Contract with Canadian Pacific Railway, Amount paid under and Objections to Renewal, *Mar. 27*, 1843–1845.
Opium Traffic—Proposals for Commission or Conference, *Mar. 20–21*, 851.

Taylor, Mr. J. W. [Durham, Chester-le-Street]
Gateshead Schools—Notice issued by Committee as to Children living in Durham, *Mar. 20–21*, 856.

Taylor, Mr. T. C. [Lancashire, S.E., Radcliffe]
Blocking Motions and Bills—Government Proposals for Dealing with the Matter, *Mar. 27*, 1829, 1830.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2r., *Mar. 18*, 519–526.

[*cont.*

Taylor, Mr. T. C.—*cont.*
Opium Traffic in Crown Colonies in the East, Possibility of Restricting, etc., *Mar. 18,* 519–526.

Taylorstown
Postal Facilities, Improvement of.
Q. Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 13,* 64, 65.

Tees Conservancy Bill
*l. Rep.** *Mar. 19,* 597.

Telegraph Service
See also Names of Places.
Learners, Employment of—Number of Ex-Soldiers Appointed, etc.
Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 22,* 1296.
Messengers' Health, Effect of Docket System on.
Q. Mr. Essex; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 22,* 1274.
Temporary Assistants, Reason for Employment of.
Q. Mr. C. Money; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 25,* 1454.
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 69.

Telephone Service
See also Names of Places.
Private Telephones, Expediting Installation of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Carr-Gomm; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 19,* 642.

Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill
Clause 28, 3 (*c*), Transfer of Property under.
Q. Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18,* 422, 423.
Committee, Consulting as to Details, proposed.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20–21,* 842.
Ireland, Application to.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 204.
Reserve, Application of Part III. to.
Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1304.
Return Showing Enactments Adapted or Applied by, proposed.
Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18,* 455.
Rifle Ranges, Provision of.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1303, 1304.
Second Reading, Date of Taking.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 14,* 206.

Thomas, Mr. D. A. [Merthyr Tydvil]
Merionethshire, Elementary Schools Recently Erected in, Decision as to, *Mar. 27,* 1813, 1814.
Voluntary Schools—Teachers in, Powers of Managers with Regard to Salaries, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1814.

Thomas, Sir A. [Glamorganshire, E.]
Education—Welsh Department, Appointments to, Qualifications of Messrs. Davies and Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13,* 110.

Thorne, Mr. W. [West Ham, S.]
Unemployed
Distress Committees, Grants to, *Mar. 22,* 1273.
Grant of £200,000
Expenditure of, *Mar. 13,* 37.
Particulars of Refusals, *Mar. 26,* 1653.

Thornley
Postman, Hours of Duty and Pay of.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 19,* 667.

Thornton, Mr P. M. [Clapham]
Crete—Kavo Krio, Erection of Light on—Cause of Wreck of "Imperatrix," etc., *Mar. 25,* 1495.

Tillet, Mr. J. L. [Norwich]
Trade Marks, Counterfeit of British Marks, Prosecutions for, Abroad, Assistance Rendered by Consuls, etc., *Mar. 25,* 1465.

Tonlagee
Beirne, Mr., Case of.
Q. Capt. Hervey; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 18,* 425.
Trial for Unlawful Assembly, Decision of Jury in, etc.
Q. Capt. Craig; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Mar. 14,* 202.

Toulmin, Mr. G. [Bury, Lancashire]
Training College Schemes, Information as to, *Mar. 20–21,* 857.

Trade, Board of
President—Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. H. E. Kearley.
Bankruptcy Department, Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.
Marine Department Staff, Conditions of Service of.
Q. Mr. H. J. Craig; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 22,* 1268.
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.
White Paper 340, Reprinting of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Essex; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 22,* 1268, 1269.

Trade Marks
Counterfeit of British Marks, Prosecutions for, Abroad—Assistance rendered by Consuls, etc.
Q. Mr. Tillett; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 25,* 1465.

Trade Reports
Annual Series, Presented, *Mar. 23,* 1366; *Mar. 25,* 1452; *Mar. 26,* 1617; *Mar. 27,* 1768.
Irish Statistics, Date of Issuing.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 27,* 1823.

Trade and Commerce
British Possessions and Foreign Countries, Monthly Accounts—Return Presented, *Mar. 13,* 9.
Markets remaining Unexploited for British Goods.
Qs. Mr. Remnant; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 13,* 35.

Tralee
Condition of—Report of Constabulary, etc.
Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 22,* 1284.

Transvaal
Chinese Labour
Abolition of System, Necessity for.
Os. Mr. Mackarness, *Mar. 18,* 514–517; Mr. Churchill, 534.
Licences — Policy with regard to Licences granted by the Late Government.
Os. Mr. Mackarness, *Mar. 18,* 515.
Policy of the Transvaal Government.
Qs. Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Fiennes-Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 25,* 1493, 1494.
Renewal of Contracts, Potential Legislation for—Imperial Veto, etc.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18,* 459.
Repatriation, Measures taken for, by Mine-owners.
Q. Mr. Fullerton; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25,* 1493.
Election—Return as to Votes for each Candidate and Percentage that Polled, proposed.
Q. Mr. Straus; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 14,* 217.
Johannesburg Immorality Prosecution, Particulars of.
Q. Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 13,* 27.
Land Settlement, *see under* Africa, South.
Mines
Labour for, *see subheadings* Chinese, Native, *and* White Labour.
Value of Drill
Q. Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25,* 1493.

Transvaal—*cont.*
Native Labour, Facilities for Recruitment of.
Qs. Mr. Mackarness, Mr. Fiennes; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 25,* 1494, 1495.
Parliament
Salaries Paid to Ministers—Comparison with other Colonies.
Qs. Mr. Liddell; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 26,* 1637, 1638.
Second Chamber, Constitution of.
Os. Mr. Mackarness. *Mar. 18,* 514; Mr. Churchill, 514.

Trawlers' Regulation Bill
c. 1r.* *Mar. 18,* 489.

Trawling
See under Fisheries.

Treasury
First Lord—Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.
Financial Secretary—Mr. W. Runciman.
Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 67.

Trevelyan, Mr. C. P. [Yorks, W.R., Elland]
London Municipal Society, Subscription to, from London and North Western Railway, *Mar. 14,* 238.
London and North Western Railway Bill, 2r., *Mar. 19,* 756–760, 762.

Trinidad
Customs Tariff Commission, Information as to.
Qs. Mr. Summerbell; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 19,* 655, 656.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 27,* 1800.
Labourers in, Conditions of Employment, Number Imported, etc.
Qs. Mr. Summerbell; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Mar. 27,* 1797–1799.
Panama Canal, Labour for, *see* Panama Canal.

Truck Acts
Charitable Institutions, Alleged Contravention by.
Q. Mr. A. Henderson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14,* 231.

Trusts Bill
c. 1r.* *Mar. 20,* 878.

Tuam
Postal Service with Limerick, Improvement of, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14,* 250, 251.

Tubbercurry
Potato Crop, Condition of.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 869.

Tuberculosis
Cows suffering from—Disposal of Carcases.
Q. Sir A. Bignold; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22*, 1294.
Pulmonary, Metropolitan Parochial Infirmaries with Special Wards for Treatment of.
Q. Mr. W. Pearce; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 20–21*, 836.

Turkey
Customs Duties, Increase in
Allocation of Proceeds.
Qs. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 226; *Mar. 26*, 1640.
Conditions attached to.
Q. Mr. Gooch; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 25*, 1466.
Frontier Dispute with Persia—Progress of Negotiations.
Qs. Mr. Lynch; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 19*, 657; *Mar. 26*, 1639.
Salonika, Kidnapping of British Subject at.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 27*, 1802.

Turnour, Lord [Sussex, Horsham]
Army (Annual) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 587, 594; *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1005, 1006, 1022, 1025, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1060, 1072, 1074, 1077, 1080, 1081, 1089, 1104, 1136.
Cavan, Indictable Offences in, *Mar. 19*, 675.

Tweed River
Fisheries—Legality of Claims to Exclusive Rights.
Q. Sir J. Jardine; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 13*, 41.

Tweedmouth, Lord—*First Lord of the Admiralty*
Army
Officers, Effect of Abolition of the Militia on Supply of, *Mar. 21*, 1254.
Territorial Army, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1254.
Defence of the Empire, Preparedness of the Country, *Mar. 21*, 1251.
Militia—Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21*, 1252–1255.

Tyne Improvement Bill
l. Rep. Mar. 19*, 597.

Tyrone, North
Parliamentary Election—New Member Sworn, *Mar. 13*, 66.

Uganda Railway
Land Expropriated by the State, Area and Disposal of.
Qs. Mr. Wedgwood; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18*, 457; *Mar. 20–21*, 844.
Profit on Working of.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19*, 645, 646.

Unemployed
Afforestation, Employment on—Assistance by Grant proposed.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 190.
Causes of Unemployment.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Mar. 27*, 1855–1857, Mr. Hunt, 1867.
Distress Committees
Accounts, Decision as to Order to Regulate.
Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19*, 661.
Grants to.
Qs. Mr. Thorne; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22*, 1273.
Grant of £200,000 Allocation of.
Os. Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27*, 1871.
Qs. Mr. T. Davies, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27*, 1810, 1811.
Amount Expended, etc.
Qs. Mr. Haddock, Mr. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. Burns. *Mar. 13*, 36, 37.
Q. Mr. Thorne; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 13*, 37, 38.
Further Grant in 1908, Proposals as to, and Date of Introducing Amending Bill.
Q. Mr. G. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 234.
Refusals, Particulars of.
Q. Mr. Thorne; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 26*, 1653.
Renewal of.
Q. Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
Scotland, Amount allocated to.
Qs. Mr. Morton; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 18*, 488.
Wales, Amount given to.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 236.
Women, Reason for withholding Help by Distress Committees.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Mar. 27*, 1853; Mr. Burns, 1870.

Unemployed Workmen Act
Administration of, Alleged Failure of.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Mar. 27*, 1853–1860; Mr. L. Haslam, 1864; Mr. Masterman, 1865–1867; Mr. Burns, 1870–1881; Mr. Long, 1881, 1882.

[*cont.*

Unemployed Workmen Act—*cont.*
Amendment of, Date of Introducing Legislation.
Os. Mr. Clynes, *Mar. 27*, 1861–1864; Mr. Burns, 1875, 1876.
Qualification for Assistance, Hardship Imposed by, in Case of W. G. Jex.
Q. Mr. G. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 13*, 38.

United Irish League
See under Ireland.

United Methodist Church Bill
l. 2R.* *Mar. 20*, 781.

United States
British Commercial Agent, Allowance for.
Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20–21*, 849, 850.
Commercial Treaty with—Operation of Most-Favoured-Nation Clause.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 19*, 658.
Municipal Borrowing in—Return as to Limits imposed by Law, proposed.
Qs. Sir G. Parker; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 27*, 1801, 1802.
Probation System — Memorandum Presented, *Mar. 15*, 338.
Shipping Trade between East and West Coasts, Complaints as to Reservation of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 22*, 1266.
Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25*, 1496, 1497.
Tariff Relations with Canada.
Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26*, 1642, 1643.
Trade Arrangements with Germany—Safeguarding British Trade, proposed.
Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 14*, 223, 224.
Unemployment Returns for New York State, Particulars given in.
Qs. Mr. Remnant; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar 18*, 472, 473; *Mar. 19*, 665.

Universities
Scotland, Grants to, Inadequacy of.
Os. Sir H. Craik, *Mar. 13*, 123, 124.
Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

University College, Oxford
Statute Presented, *Mar. 20*, 821; *Mar. 21*, 1206.

Vaccination
Acts, Administration of, Placing Vaccination Officer under Control of Board of Guardians, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 18*, 472.

Vaccination—*cont.*
Calves used at National Vaccine Establishment in 1906.
Qs. Mr. Lupton; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19*, 661, 662.
Cases of Olive Hunt and W. Kellam—Tabling Reports proposed.
Q. Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 20–21*, 836, 837.
Lymph, Source of origin of.
Os. Mr. Lupton, *Mar. 27*, 1868–1870.
Manger, M., Case of.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1508.
Reports as to Results, Reason for Non-publication of.
Q. Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27*, 1809.
Scotland—Report (1906), Presented, *Mar. 23*, 1365; *Mar. 26*, 1618.
Wenham, Mabel Ellen, Death of, Inquiry into.
Q. Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27*, 1810.

Vagrancy
Proposals for dealing with—Statement of Chairman of Clerkenwell Sessions, etc.
Q. Mr. Clynes; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 13*, 30.

Valentia, Viscount
Army, Cavalry Depots, reviving System of, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 303.
Army (Annual Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 596; *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1071, 1072, 1074.
Indian Army, Cavalry Drafts, System of Supplying, *Mar. 14*, 302.
Teachers, Application of Workmen's Compensation Act to, *Mar. 23*, 1370.

Vandeleur Estate
Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of.
Qs. Mr. Halpin; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 19*, 674, 675.

Vaugh Estate
Reinstatement Claim of J. Doherty.
Q. Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 20–21*, 824.

Verney, Mr. F. W. [Buckinghamshire, N.]
Armaments, Reduction of, Possibility of effecting, *Mar. 14*, 283–285.
Army—Furniture, Barrack and Mess, Charge for use of, *Mar. 8*, 452, 453.

Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. H. [Sheffield, Central]
Army—Second Line, Pay and Allowances for, *Mar. 20–21*, 841.
Australasian Mails, Payment for Carriage of, *Mar. 26*, 1628.

[*cont.*

Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. H.—*cont.*
  Consols, Decline in Value of, *Mar. 18*, 464, 466.
  Empire Day Demonstrations by School Children, Encouragement of, *Mar. 18*, 477.
  Hall-marking of Silver, Irish Charge for, *Mar. 20-21*, 869, 870.
  London County Council
    Accounts, Audit of, *Mar. 18*, 470.
    Loans, Particulars of, *Mar. 18*, 469.
  New Caledonia Penal Settlement, Australasian Protests against, *Mar. 20-21*, 846, 847.
  New Hebrides—Native Labour, Wages for—Recruitment of Females, etc., *Mar. 18*, 459-461.
  Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill
    Details, Consulting Committee as to, proposed, *Mar. 20-21*, 842.
    Ireland, Application to, *Mar. 14*, 204.
    Second Reading, Date of Taking, *Mar. 14*, 206.

Vivian, Mr. H. [Birkenhead]
  Army Signalling Regulations, Date of Issue of, *Mar. 22*, 1287.
  Crown Lands—Power to make Gifts for Open Spaces, *Mar. 22*, 1274.
  Income Tax Payment on Bank Loans, *Mar. 26*, 1645.
  Post Office Savings Bank Funds—Investment in Irish Land Stock, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1644.

Vivisection
  Inspectors, Salaries of.
    Q. Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 27*, 1804, 1805.

Volunteers
  Adjutants—Number holding Temporary Appointments, etc.
    Q. Mr. Partington; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20-21*, 839.
  Armament—Progress made with Conversion of 15-pounders.
    Q. Mr. Walrond; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 18*, 423.
  Bandmasters, *Status* of.
    Q. Mr. Rees; A. Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 19*, 650.
  Effect of New Scheme on Service of.
    Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 20-21*, 840.
  Financial Liabilities of Officers, Information as to.
    Q. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27*, 1790.
  Loans for Drill Halls, etc.—Transfer of Mortgages.
    Q. Mr. G. Faber; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22*, 1290, 1291.

Wadsworth
  Yorkshire Miners' Association's Income Tax Liability of, *Mar. 25*, 1453.

Wages
  Inquiry, Scope of.
    Qs. Mr. A. Henderson, Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 14*, 236.

Wales
  Church, Disestablishment of—Motion for, Out of Order.
    Os. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rees, *Mar. 23*, 1372.
  Education Department for, *see under* Education, England and Wales.
  Stallions Roaming the Hills and Commons, Deterioration in Breed of Ponies Due to—Possibility of Introducing Legislation to deal with.
    Os. Lord Kenyon, *Mar. 21*, 1258; Earl Carrington 1259; Earl Cawdor. 1260.

Wallace Collection
  Vote for, *Mar. 13*, 69.

Walrond, Mr. L. [Devon, Tiverton]
  Houses of Parliament, Pay for Police Duty at, *Mar. 22*, 1299.
  Volunteers—Armament, Progress made with Conversion of 15-Pounders, *Mar. 18*, 423.

Walsh, Mr. S. [Lancashire, S.W., Ince]
  Training Colleges, Theological Tests, Disabilities Imposed by, *Mar. 13*, 126.

Walton, Sir J. L.—*Attorney-General* [Leeds, S.]
  Apprentices, Indenture of—Amendment of Law, proposed, *Mar. 20-21*, 860.
  Bankruptcy Law—Case of Button *ex parte* Hairside, *Mar. 19*, 641.
  Consolidated Fund (No.1) Bill, 3R. *Mar. 20*, 978-982.
  Ecclesiastical Disorders—Illegal Practices at Broadstairs and Tunbridge Wells, *Mar. 14*, 244.
  Education Grant of £100,000 for New Schools, Allocation of, *Mar. 20*, 978-982.
  Guest, Keen and Nettleford, Messrs.—Alleged Dismissal of Workmen in consequence of Votes given during Municipal Elections, *Mar. 27*, 1816.
  Magistrates' Clerks Participating in Assize Prosecutions, Objections to, *Mar. 18*, 477.
  Married Women's Property Act—Amending Bill, Proposals for Introducing, *Mar. 14*, 245.
  Money Lenders Act, 1900—Application to Clerks, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1625.

[*cont.*

Walton, Sir J. L.—*cont.*

Newspapers, Misrepresentations by—Legislation to Facilitate Punishment of Persons Responsible, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1789.

Page's Estate, Documents Referring to—Investigation by Treasury, etc., *Mar. 14*, 245.

Standing Committees—Exemption of Bills Imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1718.

Supreme Court—Closing on August Bank Holiday, proposed, *Mar. 25*, 1515.

Worcester Parliamentary Election Petition—Tabling Report of Proceedings, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1815.

War Office

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Earl of Portsmouth.

Financial Secretary—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.

Esher, Lord

Attendances and Functions of.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27*, 1794.

Position and Services of.
Qs. Mr. Bowles, Sir G. Parker, Sir R. Hobart; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 25*, 1487.

Forage Contracts, Information as to.
Qs. Mr. J. Collings; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 26*, 1633, 1634.

Harness Contract placed with Messrs. Jenkinson—Wages earned, etc.
Q. Dr. Cooper; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22*, 1303.

Old Buildings and Sites, proposals for Disposing of.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 18*, 432.

Surveyor's Salaries, Comparison of with those in other Public Departments.
Q. Mr. Cave; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27*, 1790.

Ward, Mr. J. [Stoke-on-Trent]

Page's Estate, Documents Referring to—Investigation by Treasury, etc., *Mar. 14*, 245.

Rayner, H. G.—Commutation of Death Sentence on, proposed, *Mar. 27*, 1806.

Wages Inquiry, Scope of, *Mar. 14*, 236.

Workmen's Compensation Act—Basis of giving Compensation for Accidents happening after 1st July, *Mar. 14*, 232.

Wardle, Mr. G. J. [Stockport]

Elliot Junction Railway Accident—Revision of Sentence on Gourlay, proposed, *Mar. 13*, 42; *Mar. 15*, 341.

Railway Clerks, Extension of Hours Act to, proposed, *Mar. 14*, 237.

Ware

German Farm Colony—Information given in Report, etc.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 233, 234.

Waring, Captain W. [Banffshire]

Moray Firth, Trawling in, Prevention, Measures taken for, *Mar. 14*, 248.

Rating System in Scotland, Unification of, proposed, *Mar. 22*, 1271.

Warner, Mr. T. C. T. [Stafford, Lichfield]

Army (Annual) Bill, *Con., Mar. 25*, 1616.

Butter and Margarine Bill, Date of taking, *Mar. 14*, 214.

Washburn Valley

Afforestation Scheme—Conditions of Employment of Men, etc.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie; *Mar. 27*, 1857, 1858; Mr. Burns, 1872, 1873.
Qs. Mr. O'Grady; *As.* Mr. Burns, Mr. Speaker, *Mar. 19*, 662–665.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27*, 1808.

Wason, Mr. E. [Clackmannan and Kinross]

Rates, Scottish (1905–6), Information as to, *Mar. 18*, 434.

Scottish Standing Committee, Proposals as to establishing, *Mar. 25*, 1534.

Wason, Mr. J. C. [Orkney and Shetland]

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 574.

Lights on Vehicles Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 391.

Moray Firth, Trawling in

Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 18*, 574–575.

Policy of the Government, *Mar. 18*, 484.

Nigeria—Police Outrages at Ubaikwan, *Mar. 18*, 455.

Parochial Medical Officers (Scotland) Bill, c. Intro., *Mar. 20*, 884–885.

Poor Law

Duncan, Dr. G., Reason for Dismissal of, *Mar. 18*, 481.

Medical Assistance—Powers of Local Government Board, *Mar. 26*, 1660.

Medical Officers, Dismissals of, *Mar. 18*, 482.

Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 725–727.

Trawling, Protection of Fishery Grounds, Inadequate Nature of, *Mar. 18*, 575.

Workmen's Compensation Act, Extension of, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 469.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill

c. 2R.* *Mar. 25*, 1451.

Watlington
Petty Sessions—Case of Quarterman.
Q. Mr. Morrell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14*, 233.

Wealth
Distribution of, Statistics as to.
Os. Mr. Bennett, *Mar. 26*, 1731; Mr. C. Money, 1736.

Weatherley, C., Case of
Revision of Sentence, proposed.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18*, 467.

Wedgwood, Mr. J. C. [Newcastle-under Lyme]
Children, Illegitimate Pauper—Registration of Births in Workhouses, *Mar. 14*, 234.
Ecclesiastical Commissioners — Agency Charges paid during last Twenty Years, *Mar. 22*, 1299.
Indian Railway Rolling Stock, Inadequacy of, *Mar. 14*, 194.
Land Values, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1752–1756.
Liquor Licences, Taxation of, proposed, *Mar. 18*, 462.
Nigeria, Northern—Report on Railway Extension, *Mar. 26*, 1638, 1639.
Prison Dietary, Labour, etc., *Mar. 18*, 433.
Rating Assessment of Licensed Premises, *Mar. 18*, 471.
Taxation, Incidence of, Necessity for Readjustments, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1752–1757.
Uganda Railway—Land expropriated by the State, Area and Disposal of, *Mar. 18*, 457; *Mar. 20–21*, 844.

Weights and Measures
Metric System, Adoption of.
Q. Sir G. S. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 22*, 1269.
Government Departments, etc., Introduction into, proposed.
Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Mar. 19*, 647.

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill
c. 2R., *Mar. 22*, 1311.

Weir, Mr. J. G. [Ross and Cromarty]
Achintee River—Erection of Footbridge, proposed, *Mar. 20–21*, 861.
Balintore Harbour, Condition of, *Mar. 18*, 479.

Weir, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*
Beauly and Ness Rivers, Fishery Rights Claimed in, *Mar. 26*, 1661.
Cape Breton, British Immigrants at—Allegations as to Misleading Statements by Emigration Agency, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1635.
Crofters Act, 1886, Proposals for Amending, *Mar. 13*, 42.
Education—Legislative Proposals for Dealing with Franchise, *Mar. 26*, 1660.
Fisheries—Trawling Cases Reported from Scottish Stations During Last Five Years, *Mar. 18*, 478.
General Aid Grant in Scotland, Purposes Applicable to, *Mar. 18*, 483.
Great Western, London and North Western and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 755–756.
India
  Assam Coolie Children, Education of, *Mar. 14*, 210.
  Bengal—Decision as to Chowkidari Tax, *Mar. 14*, 210.
  Bombay, Ryots Evicted (1899–1904), *Mar. 22*, 1300.
Lewis, Island of
  Aignish Cattle, Proposals for Improving Breed of, *Mar. 18*, 479.
  Common Grazings of Skinned Land, Authorising Erection of Houses on, *Mar. 13*, 42.
  Fishermen—Loans for Purchase of Steam Drifters, proposed, *Mar. 26*, 1659.
Mellon Udrigle Boat Slip—Reply to Petition, *Mar. 18*, 479.
Merchant Vessels and the Distribution of Oil on Stormy Waters, *Mar. 13*, 32.
Moray Firth, Trawling in
  Foreign Vessels Observed since Decision of High Court, *Mar. 14*, 190.
  Proposals for Dealing with Matter *Mar. 13*, 43.
National Gallery Trustees, Decision as to, *Mar. 13*, 41; *Mar. 20*, 860; *Mar. 26*, 1660.
North Sea Fisheries Investigation, Expenditure on, *Mar. 26*, 1657.
Omnibus Tickets, Inspection of, etc., *Mar. 26*, 1647.
Portmahomack Harbour, Condition of, *Mar. 18*, 480.
Rates not Paid in Metropolitan Boroughs—Charges for Summonses, *Mar. 13*, 31.
Small Landholders in Scotland Bill, Intro., *Mar. 19*, 735.

[*cont.*

Weir, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*
- Sutton (Surrey)—Fees Payable to Justices' Clerks for Rate Summonses, *Mar. 20–21*, 853.

Wemyss, Earl of
- Army, Territorial, Proposals as to, *Mar. 21*, 1212–1216.
- Militia Reform Proposals, *Mar. 21*, 1212–1216.

West Indies
- *See also* Names of Islands.
- Liquor Licences, Information as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 22*, 1291.
- Silver, Profit made by Sale of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 26*, 1644.

West Riding Tramways Bill
- *l* 3R.* *Mar. 14*, 162.
- *c* 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 637.

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill
- *l* 3R.* *Mar. 18*, 405.
- *c* 1R.* *Mar. 19*, 637.

Westmeath
- Untenanted Land, Acquisition of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13*, 44.

Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill
- *l* *Rep.** *Mar. 19*, 597.

Wexford
- Land Purchase—Delay in Inspecting Estates.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ffrench; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 25*, 1464.

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill
- *c* 1R.* *Mar. 27*, 1830.

Wheat
- Imports into United Kingdom from Canada and United States (1904–5)—Figures given in Returns.
  - *Q.* Mr. Remnant; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 13*, 33, 34.

White, Mr. G. [Norfolk, N.W.]
- Income Tax Refund—Information given by Surveyors, *Mar. 22*, 1277.

White, Mr. P. [Meath, N.]
- Crossdrum—Sale Proposals for Mr. Rotheram's Land, *Mar. 19*, 643.
- Kells Rural District Council—Reason for serving Notice to Quit on Tenants, *Mar. 19*, 650.
- Posseckstown—Reinstatement Claim of Miss McM. Clarke, *Mar. 20–21*, 822.

Whitehead, Mr. R. [Essex, S.E.]
- Shoebury Foreshores, By laws for Regulating User of, *Mar. 25*, 1488.

Whiteley, Mr. G.—*Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury* [Yorkshire, W. R., Pudsey]
- Business of the House, Course of, *Mar. 22*, 1310; *Mar. 26*, 1764.
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 965.
  - Discussion of, Arrangements for, *Mar. 20*, 965, 966.
- Post Office Mail Contract (Liverpool and Hong Kong), Discussion of, *Mar. 26*, 1674.

Whisky
- Definition of—Inquiry proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 14*, 235.
- Pot-still and Patent-still, Statistics as to Production (1886, 1896, and 1906).
  - *Qs.* Mr. Kilbride, Mr. Lea; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 20–21*, 851.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 27*, 1803, 1804.

Wiles, Mr. T. [Islington, S.]
- Post Office Uniform Contracts, Information as to, *Mar. 18*, 420.

Wilkie, Mr. A. [Dundee]
- Ardler Water Supply, Proposals for Improving, *Mar. 14*, 247.

William III., Statue of
- Site for Erection of.
  - *Qs.* Captain Craig; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 251.

Williams, Colonel R. [Dorset, W.]
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R., *Mar. 20*, 985.
- Gooseberry Mildew—Prevalence in Ireland, *Mar. 18*, 436.
- Voluntary Schools, Policy as to, *Mar. 20*, 985.

Williamson, Mr. A. [Elgin and Nairn]
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 560–563.
- Moray Firth, Trawling in Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of—Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 18*, 562, 563.
- Trawling
  - Cases Reported from Scottish Stations, *Mar. 18*, 478.
  - Destruction of Fish by Trawlers, *Mar. 18*, 560, 561.
  - Fishery Grounds, Cruisers Employed in Protecting, *Mar. 18*, 485.

Wilson, Mr. A. S. [Yorks, E.R., Holderness]
  Army (Annual) Bill, *Com.*, *Mar. 21*, 1009, 1010, 1048, 1117.
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 18*, 557–560, 563, 377.
  Divisions—Tellers having gone before Member had passed Lobby Door, Question as to Recording Vote, *Mar. 25*, 1607, 1608.
  London, Defence of—Disposal of Sites, etc., *Mar. 25*, 1488.
  Moray Firth
    Scientific Investigation in, Nature of *Mar. 27*, 1819, 1820.
    Trawling in
      English Vessels, Prohibition of—Entry, *Mar. 18*, 557.
      Norwegian Vessels, Prosecution of Attitude of Norwegian Government, etc., *Mar. 13*, 43; *Mar. 18*, 558–560; *Mar. 27*, 1819.
      Proposals for Dealing with Matter, *Mar. 13*, 43.
    Waters Outside Three-mile Limit Enclosed in—Terms of By-law No.8, *Mar. 27*, 1819.
  New Hebrides Convention, Expenditure in Connection with, *Mar. 13*, 28; *Mar. 19*, 656.
  Parliament
    Blocking Motion of Member for Barnstaple, Effect of, *Mar. 25*, 1524–1525.
    Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Mar. 14*, 255.
  Ramsey, Lord de, Allotment Holders given Notice to Quit, Number for whom Allotments have been found, etc., *Mar. 25*, 1512.
  Standing Committees—Bills, the Second Reading of which was taken after 11 p.m., Objections to Automatic Reference to Committee, *Mar. 25*, 1613; *Mar. 26*, 1676–1678.
  Teachers' Pensions, Information as to, *Mar. 19*, 668.
  Tralee, Condition of—Report of Constabulary, *Mar. 22*, 1284.
  Trawling
    Cases Reported from Scottish Stations, *Mar. 18*, 478.
    "Endeavour," Damage done to, by Trawler "Campania," *Mar. 27*, 1823.
    Procedure in Prosecutions, *Mar. 19*, 665, 666.
  Volunteers—Financial Liabilities of Officers, *Mar. 27*, 1790.

Wilson, Mr. C. H. [Hull, W.]
  Moray Firth
    Fish Bred in, *Mar. 22*, 1271.
    Trawling in—Proposals for Dealing with with Matter, *Mar. 13*, 43.
  Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15*, 380.

Wilson, Mr. J. Havelock [Middlesbrough].
  Navy
    Canteen System, Inquiry into, *Mar. 14*, 300.
    Reserve, Royal Naval—Policy with Regard to, *Mar. 14*, 282, 283.
    Seamen, Wages, Rate of, *Mar. 14*, 300.
    Stokers, Wages, Rate of, *Mar. 14*, 300.

Wilson, Mr. J. W. [Worcestershire, N.]
  London and North Western Railway Bill, 2R., *Mar. 19*, 774.

Wilson, Mr. P. W. [St. Pancras, S.]
  Navy, Composition of Explosives used in, *Mar. 22*, 1270.

Wilson, Mr. W. T. [Lancashire, S.E., Westhoughton]
  Army Ordnance Factories, Wages paid in, *Mar. 13*, 22.
  County Council's Meetings, Record of Attendance of Members at, *Mar. 15*, 341.
  Hampton Court, Houses in the Home Park, Erection of—Wages paid by Contractor, *Mar. 15*, 341.

Wiltshire
  Crime in.
    Qs. Mr. Mooney; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25*, 1507, 1508.

Wireless Telegraphy
  Radio-Telegraphic Convention, Date of coming into Force and Opportunity for Discussing.
    Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 14*, 240.

Women's Enfranchisement Bill
  Facilities for.
    Q. Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Mar. 14*, 252.

Women's Franchise
  Motion for, Effect on, of Proposal to Introduce Bill on same Subject.
    Os. Mr. L. Jones, *Mar. 25*, 1525; Mr. Speaker, 1525, 1526; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1526.

Women's Suffrage
  Demonstration—Prevention of Participation by Young Girls from the Provinces, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26,* 1650.

  Girls brought from Lancashire, Measures taken to send Home.
    Q. Sir B. Sheffield; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25,* 1509.

Woods and Forests, Office of
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Woolwich Arsenal
  Discharges—Statistics as to Number Retained, etc.
    Q. Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1288, 1289.

  Naval Work allocated to.
    Q. Mr. Crooks; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 27,* 1791.

  Piecework Grievances as to Price—Fixing for.
    Qs. Sir W. Evans Gordon, Mr. Barnes; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 27,* 1793, 1794.

Worcestershire
  County Council Grants, Delay in paying.
    Q. Mr. C. B. Harmsworth; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 25,* 1514.

  Parliamentary Election Petition—Tabling Report of Proceedings, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Hemmerde; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Mar. 27,* 1815.

Workhouses
  Aged Married Paupers, Proposals for permitting to live together.
    Q. Mr. Essex; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22,* 1273.

  Casual Paupers, Rule as to Discharge of.
    Q. Mr. W. R. Rea; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 26,* 1652.

Workmen's Compensation Act
  Accidents happening after July 1st, Basis of giving Compensation for.
    Q. Mr. Ward; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 14,* 232.

  Extension of, proposed—Effect on Employment of Charwomen, etc.
    Qs. Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18,* 469.

Works Loan Commission
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Works, Office of
  Vote for, *Mar. 13,* 68.

Worthing Gas Bill
  Rep. Mar. 26,* 1621.

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S. [Sheffield, Hallam]
  Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Agency Charges paid during last Twenty Years, *Mar. 22,* 1300.

  Education—Welsh Department, Appointments to—Qualifications of Messrs. Davies and Edwards, etc., *Mar. 13,* 108, 109.

  Railways (Contracts) Bill, 2R., *Mar. 15,* 355.

  Standing Committees, referring Bills to

    Bills having passed a Second Reading by a Majority of more than two-thirds to be referred to Grand Committee, *Mar. 25,* 1598.

    Business Committee consisting of Speaker and six other Members, to be Appointed to consider all Bills, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1582.

    Exemption of Bills imposing Rates or Charges on Rates, etc., proposed. *Mar 26,* 1719.

    Increase in number of, Alterations in Procedure, and Reference of all Bills to, unless otherwise decided, proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1558–1560.

    Motion for referring Bills to, Proposed procedure as to, *Mar. 26,* 1686, 1697, 1701.

    Restricting New Proposals to Bills for which the Government was responsible proposed, *Mar. 25,* 1587–1589.

    Scottish Committee, Proposals as to Establishing, *Mar. 25,* 1560.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. G. [Dover]
  Education, Ireland

    Building Plans and Grants, Proposals as to, *Mar. 23,* 1436, 1437.

    Primary, Condition of—Proposals as to remedying and increasing Grant, etc., *Mar. 23,* 1435.

Yeomanry
  Pay and Allowances—Granting Ration Allowance, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Fiennes; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Mar. 22,* 1289.

York (Micklegate Strays) Bill
l. R.* *Mar. 21,* 1205.

Yorkshire
Criminal Statistics for East Riding.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 25,* 1504.

Yorkshire Miners' Association
Income Tax Liability of.
Q. Mr. Wadsworth; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 25,* 1453, 1454.

Youghal Bay
Seals, Damage caused by, and Rewards offered for Destruction of.
Qs. Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13,* 57.

Young, Mr. S. [Cavan, E.]
Adkins Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Mar. 18,* 443.
Constabulary, Strength, Cost and Proposals as to Reduction, *Mar. 15,* 338.
Hudson Estate Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants, *Mar. 18,* 444.

Younger, Mr. G. [Ayr Burghs]
Income Tax Collection — Assimilating English and Scotch Systems, proposed, *Mar. 14,* 229.

Youthful Offenders Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 18,* 489.

Yoxall, Mr. J. H. [Nottingham, W.]
Jamaica Earthquake — Condition of School Buildings, Proposals as to Reopening, etc., *Mar. 27,* 1778.
Secondary Education, Criticisms on Policy as to, *Mar. 13,* 114–116.